



BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

**Women Driving Ecological
Transition in Agriculture**

**Promoting Change in Traditional
Approaches**

JULY 2024



Co-funded by
the European Union

Women Driving Ecological Transition in Agriculture

–Promoting Change in Traditional Approaches

Context and Initiative Details

Name of the initiative	<u>Women driving ecological transition in agriculture</u>
Geographical scope	National (France) and local (Deux-Sèvres, Aurdèche, Indre, Ille-et-Vilaine).
Sources of funding	GoodPlanet Foundation Corporate sponsorship : Nuxe
Duration of the initiative	2020-2026
Target audience	Women farmers
Social justice focus area	Gender equality, woman empowerment, green transition.
Goals of the initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage female farmers to take the lead on independent projects that benefit the environment. • Raise awareness of women farmers' contributions to the farming community and to the broader public. • Get rid of the cultural and psycho-sociological barriers that stand in the way of adopting sustainable agriculture. • Encourage other groups of French women farmers to adopt this initiative.

Good Practices Description

Stakeholder engagement in the process

Through exchange-training, research-action, and other initiatives, the project supports 200 women farmers from 15 different groups throughout France in their efforts to combat gender stereotypes and highlight their significant contribution to the shift to sustainable agriculture.

The project is divided into three main sections: an analysis of research to better understand, publicize, and support the role of women in the ecological transition of agriculture; a network of fifteen women's groups from the local "Initiative centers to promote agriculture and the rural environment" (CIVAM); and targeted support for four very active women's groups.

Methodology used (if available)

Most workshops and training sessions, though not all of them, are conducted in a single-gender setting. The goal is to facilitate conversations about women's roles in agriculture with the business community and civil society, as well as opportunities for workshops and experience sharing among female farmers.

CIVAM trainers share eco-agricultural techniques related to sustainable agriculture, emphasizing the role of women in this shift.

Teaching approaches (if available)

The undertaking consists of:

- Technical training sessions and the exchange of professional practices on a range of subjects (such as tractor driving, sustainable breeding, and juggling work on the farm and family obligations).

- Conversations about the place of women in agriculture in the business and civil society (including talks for schools and discussions involving both genders).
- Talk time to boost self-esteem and empower women farmers

Challenges and outcomes

Key factors contributing to success

The singular gender approach was implemented from the start to eliminate barriers to women's involvement in technical meetings and to allow them to share their experiences in a setting where decision-making roles are still customarily held by men.

The CIVAM women trainers' steadfast dedication to the project's guiding principles strengthened both their participation and the training dynamic.

The training programs also draw on the CIVAM network's acknowledged technical expertise in sustainable agriculture.

Encountered difficulties and challenges

Some men in the CIVAM network expressed confusion about the initiative, saying things like, "A women's group? Are we leading a group of men? That seems a little exclusive, doesn't it?" (Excerpt from an article available on the network's website - [Être agricultrice – CIVAM de Loire-Atlantique \(civam44.org\)](https://www.civam44.org/fr/actualites/2021/09/16/etre-agricultrice-civam-de-loire-atlantique)). Thus, a communication outlining the benefits of women's groups was used

Recommendations

Macro level: Promoting and advocating the benefits of single-gender to create networks within some professional groups that are still dominated by men.

Meso and micro level: Ensure that training in equipment and techniques for sustainable agriculture becomes as widespread and accessible as training focused on productivity.

Impact

Between 2020 and 2023 :

- 4 groups of women from the CIVAM network supported
- 53 days of technical training and sharing of professional practices
- 44 internal CIVAM discussions on the role of women in agriculture (mixed and single-gender discussions)
- 74 artistic expression workshops to strengthen the autonomy and self-confidence of women farmers
- 42 public events to promote and raise awareness of women's careers in sustainable agriculture
- 5 days of national CIVAM network meetings
- 2 surveys carried out on the levers of an agroecological transition initiated by women

(Source: <https://www.goodplanet.org/fr/projet/agriculture-foresterie-durable/les-femmes-actrices-de-la-transition-ecologique-de-lagriculture/>)