

City Nantes Metropolis	
Country	France
Population	630,000 inhabitants
Title of policy or practice	Appel à projet "installations agricoles" (Call for "Agricultural Installations" Project)
Subtitle (optional)	How to attract promoters of sustainable agricultural projects in a dense urban context?
URL video	
Category	Food Production
SDGs	SDGs: 8, 11, 12, 15, 17.
Brief description	<p>Background:</p> <p>Nantes urban area includes 24 municipalities with 630,000 inhabitants (6th in France). It is remarkably dynamic, while preserving two thirds of its surface area for agricultural and natural activities (30,000 hectares i.e. 300 km²).</p> <p>Although there is strong land pressure, diversified agriculture has resisted quite well since the city launched an ambitious programme to protect and re-cultivate fallow land. During the period 2009-2017, nearly 180 hectares were cleared, and 30 farms were set up with the financial support of Nantes Metropolis (NM).</p> <p>Today, new areas are ready to embrace new agricultural projects that are consistent with the community's objectives in terms of business activity, environmental and biodiversity preservation, and the social dynamics of our peri-urban and urban areas.</p> <p>A working group has been set up to facilitate the installation of new farms. It aims to characterize the potential of each area, identify project leaders likely to be interested and look for the best possible match between the areas and the candidates for installation by an innovative and participatory method.</p> <p>Objectives of the approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find the right match between a location, one or more candidates for installation and their project through a shared and participatory approach. The targeted projects are sustainable professional agricultural projects; • Complete the territory's offer in terms of agricultural production; • Link agricultural policy with the PAT (Politique d'Aménagement du Territoire) [Spatial planning Policy] by focusing on sustainable food projects; • Promote Nantes' initiatives in the field of agriculture and sustainable food; • Make this initiative a direct contribution by NM to the PAT.
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	10/2018 – 10/2019 Completed
Actors and stakeholders involvement	<p>The working group is composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nantes Metropolis (different directions and local centres); • Chamber of Agriculture; • CAP44 (Construire une Agriculture Paysanne Performante et Plurielle) [Development of

	<p>Paesant Performing and Diverse Agriculture];</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GAB44 (Groupement des Agriculteurs Biologiques de Loire-Atlantique) [Organic Farmers Group of Loire Atlantique]; • Terre de Liens; • SAFER (Société d'Aménagement Foncier et d'Etablissement Rural) [Land Development and Rural Settlement Partnership]. <p>Nantes Metropolis provides funding for animation and assistance.</p> <p>The first element of success and satisfaction is the collective mobilization of these actors, who transcend their political position to define a common project.</p>
<p>Approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1 Site Identification; • Step 2 Site Characterization; • Step 3 Call for expressions of interest for an agricultural facility in the metropolis; • Step 4 Co-construction of installation projects.
<p>Innovation</p>	<p>Nantes Metropolis has been one of the pioneers in urban and peri-urban agriculture for 20 years.</p> <p>The main innovation of Call for Expressions of Interest Action lies in the method chosen to mobilize all stakeholders, in order to solve technical difficulties and achieve the cultivation of previously abandoned or fallow land.</p> <p>The collective dynamic is both full of teachings and promises.</p> <p>In light of the first results, Nantes Metropolis now has a pool of project leaders to occupy the sites dedicated to agricultural production at different times.</p> <p>The profile of the project leaders and the projects' nature are fully in line with the principles of the territorial food project.</p>
<p>Impact</p>	<p>First results of the Call of Expression of Interest:</p> <p>After 2 months of registration on an online platform, 46 different projects were submitted. Lessons learned from these applications are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 projects, 60 candidates, 35 men, 25 women; • 45 food projects and a non-food project (angora goat); • All projects are part of organic production; • 11 different productions: 30 market gardening projects, 1 in hops, 1 in cattle, 1 in sheep, 2 in poultry, 2 in mushrooms, 1 in viticulture, 2 in arboriculture, 2 in cereals, 1 in pigs in the open air and 1 in spirulina; • The marketing of the production of all these projects will be, at least in part, short food supply chains; • A majority of candidates settle within the framework of professional retraining; • 3-4 projects are not seeking land but buildings to establish themselves like urban mushrooms, spirulina, roof-market gardening, micro-growth production; • 21 projects are led by candidates living in the metropolis, 30 in the Loire-Atlantique department, 34 in the Pays de la Loire region; <p>Among these projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 projects are interesting from a territorial point of view, obviously sustainable and ready to settle quickly; • 27 projects still need to be supported to make their installation a reality in the next 2-3

	years.
Inclusion	<p>All these projects are fully in line with the principles and values of the Territorial Food Project "for a local, sustainable and accessible food for all."</p> <p>They constitute a direct contribution to the first collective commitment of the PAT. The commitments of the PAT roadmap are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop food production that contributes to the ecological transition; • Securing local supply and encouraging low-carbon logistics; • Enable everyone to eat enough, healthy and balanced food; • Intensify the fight against food waste; • Place the metropolis as a territory for experimentation with the food model of tomorrow; • Educate and raise awareness about food issues; • Consolidate nutrition as a factor for a good living-together and influence; • Building a responsible food system together.
Adversity coefficient	<p>The environmental context is complicated in several ways:</p> <p>1 - Urban planning pressure and land retention</p> <p>Urban sprawl associated with land speculation explain the retention of plots by their owners and the refusal to cultivate them. This phenomenon is amplified by the very low value of agricultural land (the cheapest ones in France: 1500 to 200 €/hectare).</p> <p>Nantes Metropolis has had to take substantive action over the past 20 years to protect this agricultural land through urban planning documents and support landowners and candidates for agricultural installation. Significant financial resources are committed: 200,000€/year on average.</p> <p>2 - Technical complexity of re-cultivation of fallow and/or abandoned land</p> <p>The low agronomic potential of the land, the specificity of the terroirs and the economic opportunities strongly orientate the dominant productions: cattle breeding, market gardening, viticulture...</p> <p>Clearing, soil improvement, maintenance and finally re-cultivation projects are time-consuming and expensive. Many different operators are involved in each of these stages, before achieving the installation of an agricultural project and the actual start of production.</p> <p>In addition to the financial aid for land clearance granted to landowners (€1400/hectares), and installation aid (up to €14,000/project), Nantes Metropolis also supports operators who cultivate and maintain recently cleared plots until they regain correct productivity (€500/hectares per year for three years).</p> <p>3 - The political complexity to make actors with divergent postures and interests work together</p> <p>20 years of local and national partnerships now allow the various associations, institutions and consular actors to work in full confidence and in the interest of agricultural projects.</p>