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Fédération Nationale d'Agriculture Biologique
des régions de France

Overview – Copper situation in France in 2016

Copper Conference
Berlin – 17 & 18 November 2016



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Organic production in France

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- Organic market growth of +20% in 2016
 - Organic market: 6,9 billion € by the end of 2016 (forecast)
 - Each day: 21 new organic farm
 - More than 1,5 million ha as organic
 - **More than 10% organic wine growth sales**
- (Source : Agence Bio)

=> Flourishing organic production and market



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Legal framework

Current situation and possible future legislation



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Current legal framework

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- Annex II of EU organic Regulation (889/2009):
6kg/ha/year or **30kg/ha in 5 years** with the smoothing mechanism.
- Quantity allowed until **2018** (expiry of marketing authorisation)
- Smoothing mechanism:
 - Farmers are decision makers: adaptation to the annual climate condition.
 - Tool to lower the use of copper (security reserve).





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Potential evolution of the legislation

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- **Peer review conclusion (2008 and 2013):** 4,5kg/ha/year, no smoothing mechanism
- **French Agency** dealing with sanitary safety in food and the environment (2008), conclusion : 4kg/ha/year, no smoothing mechanism
- **French Agriculture Ministry (DGAL)**, as the “rapporteur” for Europe for copper products, conclusion 2015 : keep 6kg and smoothing mechanism (now evaluation skills transferred to ANSES)
- **But new copper products in 2016** : marketing authorization at 4kg/ha/year

=> What about the situation and needs of organic farmers on the ground?



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Legal evolution based on questionable studies

- Organic farmers need to have a **clear vision** of the legal framework after 2018.
- **Problem** with the current **state of the art** on evaluation of copper (studies EFSA and ANSES):
 - Studies carried out **in vitro, not in vivo** = No real production conditions! => **Need for IN VIVO studies**
 - Studies carried out at 4, 8 or 12kg/ha/year: **Why not at the legal limitation of 6 kg/ha/year?** => **Need for studies at 6kg**
 - Studies carried out without the **smoothing mechanism**: testing 4 years at the same level of copper doesn't reflect the reality!
=> **Need for studies with smoothing mechanism**



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On the ground situation for organic farmers

1/ Vinetage 2016

2/ Study from 2008 to 2012



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Vintage 2016

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- Bad climatic conditions: late frost, rainy spring season, hail
- Mildew pressure : on foliage and grapes
- Decrease of the yields
- Threat to the wine stocks, and sometimes to the whole wine yard
- Organic farms are going back to conventionnal production (250ha in Burgundy)

=> Copper is currently the only solution in organic farming. No alternative available.



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The situation keeps repeating itself

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Study from **ITAB** (French Research Institute on Organic Farming) and **IFV** from **2008 to 2012**, on copper use in France



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Dossier technique



Argumentaire pour le maintien
d'une dose efficace de cuivre
en viticulture



Rédaction : Céline Berthier (IFV) et Marc Chovelon (ITAB)

Décembre 2013

ITAB
Institut Technique de
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IFV
INSTITUT FRANÇAIS
DE LA VIGNE ET DU VIN



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- 2008 and 2012: bad climatic conditions,
- 2009, 2010 and 2011: good weather conditions,
- More than 500 study participants:
 - 420 **wine growers**
 - 50 **fruits growers**
 - 42 **potatoes growers**



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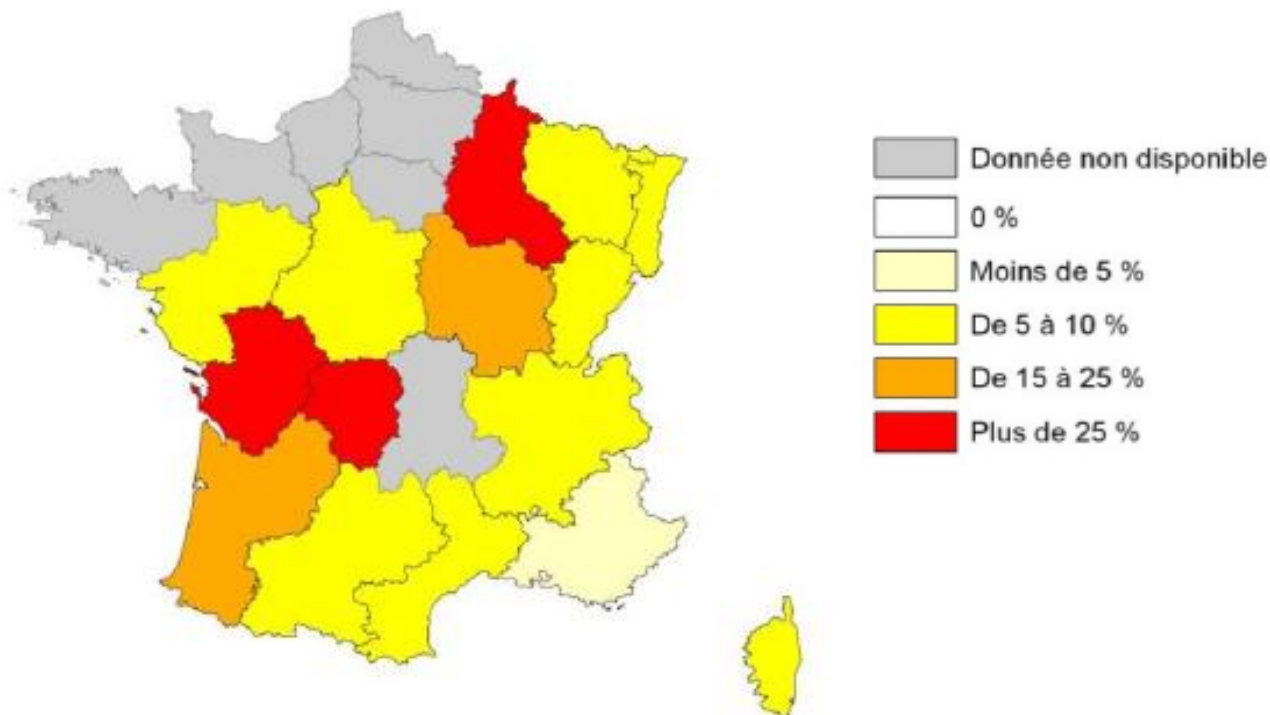
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Yields loss (%) due to mildew in 2012



Strong mildew pressure (2012): **Northern** (Champagne, Burgundy) and **Atlantic** (Bordeaux, Loire) regions : from 15% to more than 25% loss

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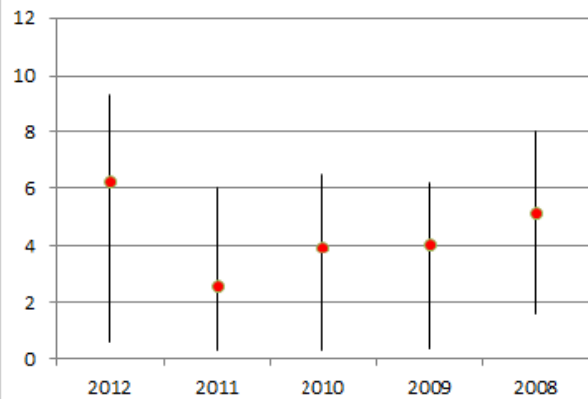
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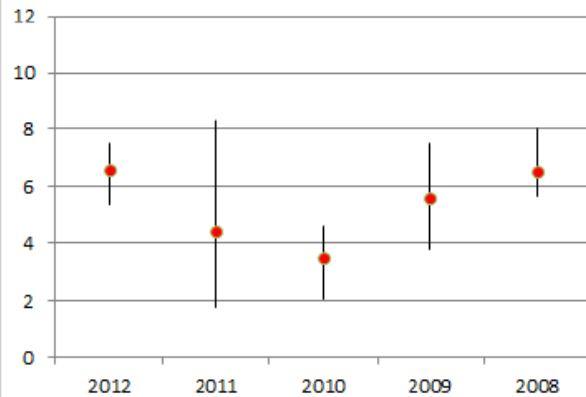
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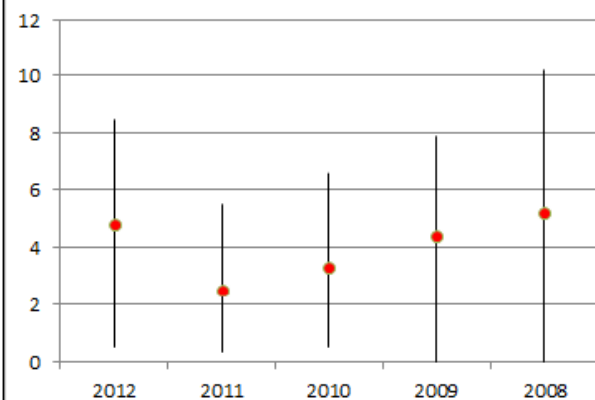
Bourgogne



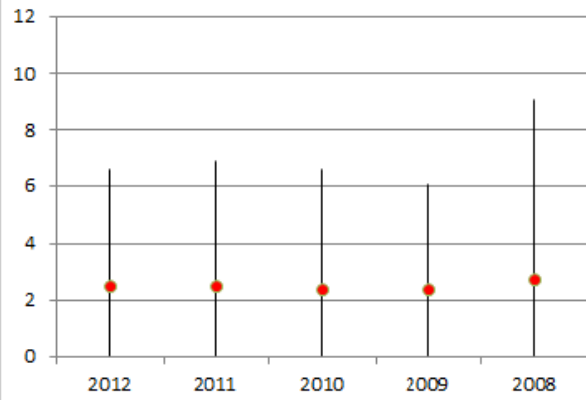
Champagne



Aquitaine



Languedoc



Annual copper use :
from 2kg/ha to
6,5kg/ha

Important variations
between years

-> Keep the
smoothing
mechanism

Copper use (kg/ha) in 4 regions 2012-2008

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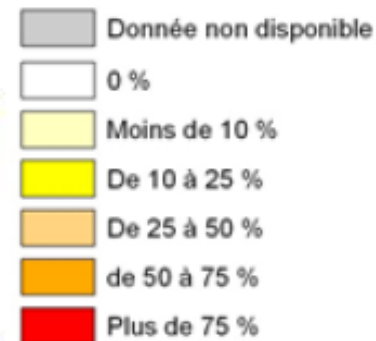
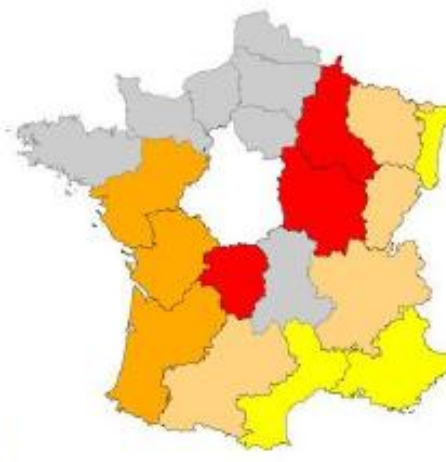
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2008

2011

2012



**% of farms using more than 4kg/ha of copper in
2008, 2011 and 2012**

➔ Impossible to stick to 4kg/ha/year when bad climatic conditions

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Conclusion:

- Strong **mildew pressure: Northern** (Champagne, Burgundy) and **Atlantic** (Bordeaux, Loire) regions.
- Annual copper use: from 2kg/ha to 6,5kg/ha
- > **Need to keep the smoothing mechanism**
- Impossible to stick to 4kg/ha/year (bad climatic conditions and no alternative available)
- > **Need for natural alternatives**

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What organic farmers need is...



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What organic farmers need is...

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- **RESEARCH on natural alternatives** to reduce copper use while protecting the wine, fruits and vegetable productions.
- Meanwhile: Keep the only effective dosis: **6kg/ha/year with the smooting mechanism** (30kg/ha/5 years).
- Debate on ecological impact of organic farming: **copper reduction vs. synthetic chemical products?**



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Thank you for your attention!