

# The experience of BASE

**Agronomy**



**Economy**

**Environment**

# Today the French are the CA leadership in EU with the Swiss

Soil regeneration  
takes time and  
commitment

Around 1/3 of  
«No-plough» land

- ✓ 10% do it as followers
- ✓ 10% do it for savings
- ✓ 10 % really involved in CA





# What is BASE ?

- Biodiversity Agriculture Soil Environment
- Created in 2005 with 50 members
- A board of farmers and volunteers
- Now 900 members
- 40 000ha impacted
- A network to meet and learn about conservation ag (and more ! : agroforestry, grazing, organic



# Why BASE ?

- The need to put the people in a network
- Be independant
- Help to go forward
- => Solve problems
- => Create new ideas
- ... bring out new problems ! ☺



# Observation, exchange and training

- 1 big meeting /year in February
- 40€ member fee/year
- As many meetings as members wants !



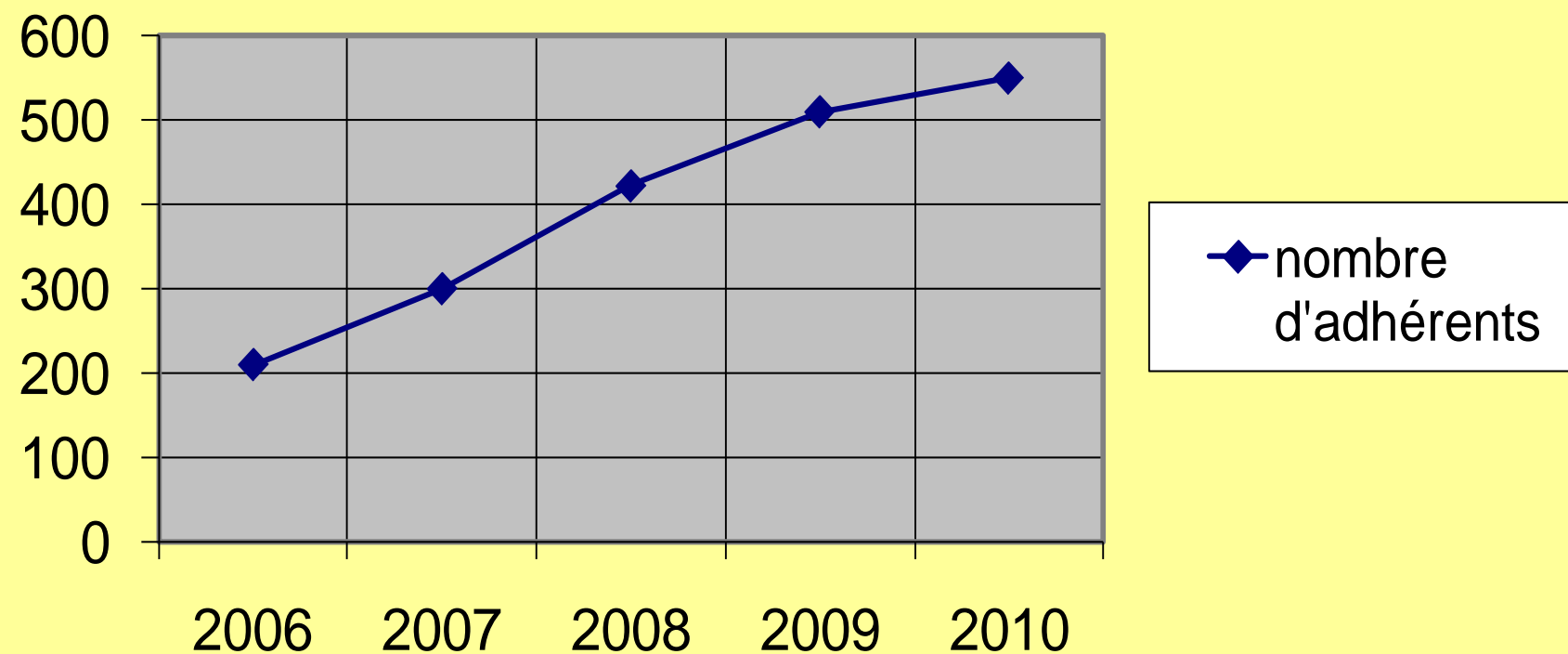
**Under any  
conditions !**





# The demand is here !

## EVOLUTION ADHERENTS BASE



- More members means = more brains !
- Even english ones : [base-uk.co.uk](http://base-uk.co.uk)



# « BIOMAX » concept : MAXimal BIOmass et BIOdiversity

*Mixing species to produce the highest yields, the biggest volume of biomass and the best quality and diversity*

Produce more biomass

Explore all the nutrient sources of the soil

Improve soil structure

Assurance of good cover what so ever

4 to 10 t/ha in  
France between  
august and  
october

Manage weeds ecologically

Introduce relay between plants

Reduce seed cost

Bring diversity and creativity in rotations



# Biomax : October 2011, Frédéric Thomas

*We even developed a tool to evaluate the fertility brought and recycle by cover-crops: M.E.R.C.I*

Espèce de culture intermédiaire		Date de semis	Biomasse verte (t de MS/ha)	Teneur en MS (%)	Biomasse sèche (t de MS/ha)	Teneur en N (%)	Azote parties aériennes (kg de N/ha)	Coefficient de recyclage racines	Azote plante entière (kg de N/ha)	CIN	% d'azote minéralisable	Restitution potentielle (kg de N/ha)	Teneur en P (%)	Restitution potentielle (kg de P/ha)	Teneur en K (%)	Restitution potentielle (kg de K/ha)		
1	autres crucifères (moyenne)	15/7	20,0	18	3,6	2,3	84	1,2	N	18	44	44	0,4	19	3,4	146	Parcelle	plateforme compost
2	autres légumineuses (moy.)	15/7	18,0	14	2,5	3,2	81	1,3	105	13	50	52	0,4	13	3,2	104	Date mesure	28 octobre 2011
3	féverole (hiver & printemps)	15/7	6,0	14	0,8	3,2	27	1,3	35	13	50	17	0,6	6	3,5	38		
4	sarrasin	15/7	0,7	25	0,2	1,8	3	1,1	3	23	33	1	0,6	1	2,3	4		
5	nyger	15/7	3,3	21	0,7	1,2	8	1,1	9	35	20	2	0,4	3	3,0	23		
-	Couvert - valeurs globales				7,8				253			115		40		315		
1	autres crucifères (moyenne)	15/7	10,7	18	1,9	2,3	45	1,2	54	18	44	24	0,4	10	3,4	78	Parcelle	côté ferme
2	autres légumineuses (moy.)	15/7	22,0	14	3,1	3,2	99	1,3	128	13	50	64	0,4	16	3,2	127	Date mesure	28 octobre 2011
-	Couvert - valeurs globales				5,0				182			85		25		205		

Potential restitution for next summer crop    N    P    K



## Strip-till is helping in the transition



**For many farmers it is the best of both worlds, especially during the transition phase.**

**Strip-till has also brought new ideas and opportunities (slurry management, green-strip-till, cover-crop management, ...)**





# Rotation and multiple strategies approach for weed management

2/2 rotation concept

Variation of cropping cycles

No-Till

Seed bank

*If No-till brings directly some savings, cover-crops is an investment and rotation ...  
... you must believe in it !*

Propagation

Germination

Competitive crops and cover-crops

Much on the soil surface

Beck and Anderson, 2004



... Even some organic farmers are getting involved





## Now, OSR fields look «surprising»



Fooling specific insect pests



great new  
«ecological ways  
to manage OSR  
for farmers  
and new business  
opportunities for  
the agribusiness

*Hello ! I'm here  
in the middle of  
this jungle*



## ...Feeding farmers creativity

Agroforestry

Ducks to manage weeds

Refitted equipments

... For a large diversity and very efficient farming practices using ecology at it most



# BASE Strenght and

## ● Strenght ● Weakness weaknesses

- Independance
- Economically light
- Part of a connected network
- Tolerance feed creativity
- Not a « lobby »
- We needed extra hand at a point
- Maybe we are hard to define !



# Those evolutions brought a change in the perception of CA outside our network

Now we are talking about new systems of production : Agro-ecology or even Ecological Intensive Farming and CA networks are put forward

Eh guys !  
That's the French  
Minister of  
agriculture.



# Thank you !

