

Possibility and problems for new young farmers to become a farmer by AMAP - In the case of Loire-Atlantique prefecture in France -

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Key Words : AMAP, new farmer, peasant farming, small scale farming, solidarity, local, sustainability

1. Background and object

Today, it's needed in France to expand young farmers (from 18 to 40 years old) in terms of aging of farmers and lack of successors, and sustainable improvement in productivity. However beneficiary of subvention for young farmer is decreased slowly, so it seems like that assessing inhibiting factors from many sides helps young people to become farmers. In my research, I analyzed with 8 conditions : ① financing, ② farm land, ③ market hunting, ④ know-how, ⑤ transparent of product process, ⑥ attitude of amapiens (eater of AMAP) toward AMAP activity, ⑦ relationship with amapien, ⑧ possibilities of development, how AMAP works for new young farmers to become a farmer. From ① to ④ of 8 conditions are needed to become a farmer and from ⑤ to ⑧ are necessary to keep the AMAP.

2. Method, outcome and consideration

I had hearing survey to 13 AMAP farmers began farming by AMAP (9) or not (4) from September to December in 2015 and from October to November in 2016 in Loire-Atlantique prefecture in France. This research aims to analyze above 8 conditions.

It shows AMAP functions and problems from research belong to 8 conditions. ① Funding : farmers can get a loan from bank more easily by AMAP after 2010 because it's known that AMAP works well and check in advance can be insurance. ② Farm land : AMAP doesn't work to get a farm land except one example that AMAP producer carried his land to amapien. ③ Market hunting: It's not enough to sell their crops at few AMAP, so they need more markets to get enough output, avoid losing crops and disperse risk. AMAP or market like local restaurants or delivery for school meal connected to the network of AMAP. ④ Know-how : AMAP can be found on relationship of mutual trust without knowing skill of farmer. They can make a contract based on production rhythm or quantity of crops. This comparatively stable base can help farmers to concentrate on farming and make a progress in the product skill. ⑤ Transparent oh product process : Farmers explain the process of production through the discussion at regular distribution point, annual visiting at farm, or helping farming by amapiens. For the realization of the transparence between farmer and amapiens, it's necessary that amapiens participate independently in AMAP activities. ⑥ Attitude of amapiens : There are 2 types of amapiens. One participates were actively and the other behaved like "consumer", so it's always same if farmer was talked or asked something to farmer, help farming, or organize the distribution. ⑦ Relationship with amapiens : AMAP is human, so both of farmers and dedicated amapiens make a point of communicate to each other. When farmers have enough occasions to contact with them, key persons of amapiens take a contact between them. Almost of them gain self-confidence because of amapiens' support to their products and also some of them remove fatigue by conversation with amapiens. ⑧ Possibilities of development : Almost all farmers researched are satisfied to their management conditions of farming management and AMAP. Almost of them think and act for rather sustainability than development.

3. Conclusion

Eleven of thirteen farmers are satisfied on their present condition and three farmers researched continue managing without any big problems more than 10 years after becoming a farmer or moving into the black by AMAP. In addition, they recognized that AMAP support them. It shows that AMAP can realize an independence and continuation of agricultural business and it is one of helpful means to become a farmer individually way for young people from non-farmer.