

## Innovations

Socio economic  
Resilience /  
Environment



2019

Dominique Madec and Benoit Cabaret take over the farm

2022

1 employee hired - adhesion to a group of employers

## Farming milestones



2018

Organic farming

2019

Adhesion to French environmental measures MAEC SPE 12/70

2020

Suckling calves

2022

Orchard planting

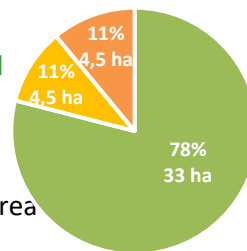
## The herd

- 57 LU
- 51 dairy cows
- Breed: crossbreeds with a Holstein basis
- Replacement rate: 15%
- Calving period: all year
- Suckling calf rearing and heifer production transferred from 4 to 28 months

## Agricultural Area

### 44 ha AA

- 33 ha permanent grassland
- 4.5 ha of meslin (grain)
- 4.5 ha maize silage
- 37.5 ha forage area
- Grass: 88% / main forage area
- 2 ha of orchards



## Workforce

- **2 partners** and 20 days of hired farm labour (2 FTE)
- **27.5 dairy cows** & 171,500 L sold /FTE
- **Aim:** 5 weeks of holidays / year and 1 weekend out of 2

## Areas of interest

- Grazing
- Cost-effective system
- Cider and apple juice production
- Added-value



## Main buildings and Equipment

- Freestall housing on straw 58 places
- 25 paddocks of 1 ha
- 1.2 km of flattened tracks
- 2x4 Milking parlour, double-up system
- Cider (10,000 bottles/year) and apple juice (5000/year)



## Production/ Technical results

- 343,000 L produced (dairy coop « Biolait »)
- 41 g/l fat & 32 g/l protein content
- Stocking rate: 1.39 LU/ha forage area
- 6,300 l/cow/year 6,100 l/ha forage area
- 245 days/year of grazing
- Feed cost = €59/ 1000L
- 55 kg of concentrate/cow/year
- Operating costs = 26% of gross product



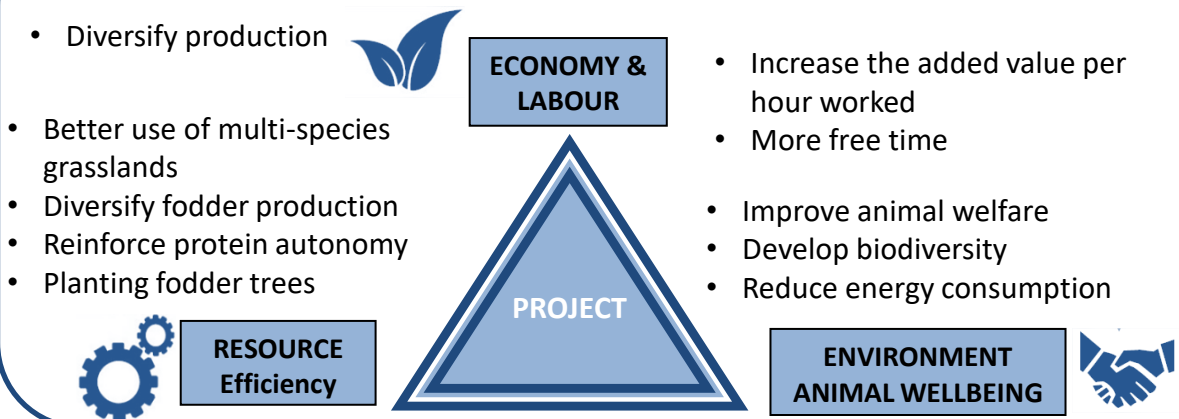
## Farmer's strategy for a resilient system

To build a resilient system, Benoît and Dominique went for a cost-effective and independent strategy to be less dependent on the input prices (feed, fuel, etc.) found in organic farming by diversifying their income (long supply chain milk and short supply-chain cider). In order to further develop this protein and fodder autonomy, they have been testing new fodders: sorghum, rapeseed, trees, etc. and are also diversifying their grasslands to compensate for drier areas: cocksfoot, Ray-grass, clover, alfalfa, plantain, fescue, etc.

## Aspirations/Needs for the future

Both farmers wish to continue with this autonomy and climatic resilience by focusing on hedges and fodder trees: planting, fodder testing, etc., as well as on reducing GHGs on the farm.

## Improvement project - objectives



Partners



“Resilience 4 Dairy” is a European project involving 15 European countries and 18 partners. R4D is a thematic network on innovations and aims to support EU dairy farming in these regions where dairy farming is a main economic activity.



R4D pilot farmers are involved in a National Dairy Akis group where needs, solutions and knowledge are exchanged with other farmers, advisors and scientists on their way to build a resilient system.

More information <https://resilience4dairy.eu/>