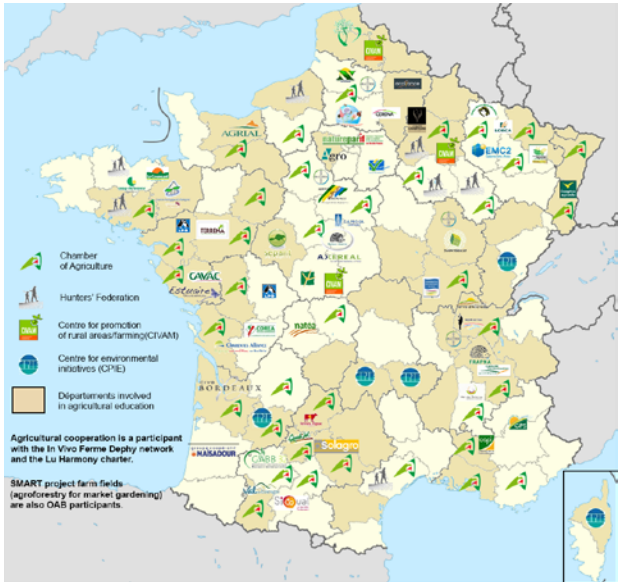
A NATIONAL NETWORK OF OBSERVERS WITH STRONG LOCAL INVOLVEMENT



Map of OAB participating or contributing networks

Present across the whole of France, participants in the agricultural biodiversity observatory (OAB) are organised in local groups each led by a coordinator.

These groups offer farmers and growers an opportunity to discuss their observational experience of biodiversity in the context of their farming practices.

Are you responsible for a plot at an experimental station? There is also a scheme designed for you!

Join the network on:

observatoire-agricole-biodiversite.fr

PARTICIPATE IN THE AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY OBSERVATORY

Go online to the OAB website and make contact with the leader for your region in order to join one of the farmers' groups in the network and apply one or more of the protocols.

Once your account has been created you will be able to send your observational data to enrich the national database and help improve knowledge of everyday biodiversity on farmland.

If you have any questions on the observatory, the network or the protocols, please contact:

contact@observatoire-agricole-biodiversite.fr
observatoire-agricole-biodiversite.fr

The agricultural biodiversity observatory (OAB) is a Ministry of Agriculture initiative. Its scientific coordination has been entrusted to the National Natural History Museum in partnership with Rennes University 1. The permanent assembly of the Chambers of Agriculture provides organisational support at national level.

The OAB is an observatory in the participatory sciences programme of the National Natural History Museum | **vigienature.fr**

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THE AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY OBSERVATORY

Gaining knowledge of biodiversity on farmland, how it is changing and how it relates to growing methods.

AN OBSERVATORY OF EVERYDAY FARMLAND BIODIVERSITY

Set up in 2009, the Agricultural Biodiversity Observatory (OAB) has two main goals in the context of farming practice: to develop indicators for monitoring the status of biodiversity and to raise positive awareness among farming professionals of practices that benefit biodiversity. The OAB reflects the commitments given by the Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry in the national biodiversity strategy (SNB) and is backed by the Vigie-Nature participatory sciences programme run by the National Natural History Museum.

How it works

The OAB is a genuinely effective tool for monitoring biodiversity, asking interested stakeholders to use four standardised observational protocols to observe the wild fauna in and at the edges of their fields.

Who can take part?

The OAB is mainly intended for farming professionals with an interest in observing biodiversity, irrespective of type of holding.

Everybody can participate – the protocols are straightforward and compatible with farming calendars.

Participants help obtain more general knowledge of farmland biodiversity and at the same time get to know and recognise the “useful biodiversity” to be found in their fields.

FOUR OBSERVATIONAL PROTOCOLS

Butterflies

Butterflies are sensitive to changes in their habitat and wild plants in the surrounding countryside. This makes them indicators for the environmental health of a whole landscape.

In practice: butterflies are counted in a field.

Solitary bees

Numerous studies show how important solitary bees are for pollination. Certain species active as early as March are responsible for the pollination of fruit trees and early crops.

In practice: nest boxes are set up for solitary bees.

Terrestrial invertebrates

Many invertebrates are ground dwellers. Depending on their diet, they may be seen as pests (slugs, for example) or as crop auxiliaries (such as ground beetles).

In practice: observation under planks laid on the ground.

Earthworms

Earthworms are genuine tillers of the soil, helping shape its physical and chemical make-up. Their presence provides an indication of the biological quality of the soil.

In practice: application of a mustard-based irritant liquid to square areas of soil.