



Methodology, parameters and criteria for determination of LFA in France

Multi-Country Workshop on Less Favoured Areas

**Multi- Country Workshop on Less Favoured Areas -Tirana, 21
March 2011**



PLAN

- I National regulations
 - I-1 Mountain areas
 - I-2 'Simple' Less Favoured Areas
 - I-3 Sub-categories defined by France
- II Classification procedures
 - II-1 Mountain areas
 - II-2 'Simple' Less Favoured Areas
- III Results
- IV Some concluding remarks

I Less Favoured Areas: national regulations

I-1 Mountain areas

Council Directive 76/401 of 6 April 1976:

Communes or parts of communes can be classified.

They must fulfil the following conditions:

- An average minimum altitude of **600 metres in the Vosges**, **700 metres in the other mountain regions** or **800 metres on slopes facing the Mediterranean**;

or

- An average **slope of 20%**

or

- A combination of the above: **an average slope of 15% and an average minimum altitude of 500 m.**

I Less Favoured Areas: national regulations

I-1 Mountain areas (cont.)

Transposition into national law by means of an official decree (decree 76-395 of 28 April 1976) and an official order (**arrêté**) (*arrêté* of 28 April 76) defining the boundaries of less favoured farming areas.

I Less Favoured Areas: national regulations

I-2 Less Favoured Areas

These farming areas must be homogeneous and exhibit the following characteristics:

- Agricultural economic outcomes significantly under the average: **gross operating results < 80% national average and final agricultural production per hectare of UAA < 80% national average or density of herbivorous livestock per hectare of PFA < 1ABU per hectare.**
- **A population density at least 50% under the national average or an annual rate of depopulation of at least 0.5%.**
- **A working population in farming equal to at least 15% of the total working population.**

NB: The current reform process relating to the criteria for classification of 'simple' Less Favoured Areas will result in radical modification of this system.

I Less Favoured Areas: National regulations

I-3 Sub-categories defined by France

- **Within mountain areas:**

France has defined the following sub-categories within mountain areas defined as such by the Commission:

Within a mountain area – “high mountain” areas: Vosges: altitude >800m; Jura: altitude >1,100m; Alpes: altitude >1,500m; Pyrenees, altitude >1,400m; Massif central: altitude >1,200m and Corsica: altitude >1,100m. (decree 77-1281 of 22 November 1977);

- **Within Less Favoured Areas:**

Piedmont, or foothills, contiguous with a mountain area (Articles D113-16 and 17 of the French *Code Rural* and the official order (*arrêté*) of 2 August 1979).

The classifications within the above areas (i.e. “high mountain” or “foothill”) **are established by prefectural order (*arrêté préfectoral*)**.

I Less Favoured Areas: National regulations

Area	Community regulations	French regulations
	Mountain	High mountain
		Mountain
	"Simple" less favoured area	Piedmont/foothills
		Other areas defined as "simple" Less Favoured Areas
	Areas affected by specific handicaps	Areas affected by specific handicaps

**Multi-Country Workshop on Less Favoured Areas
Tirana, 21 March 2011**

II Classification procedure applied in FRANCE

II-1 General procedure

- Application for classification entered by local municipality,
- State departmental services,
- Central administration,
- European Commission,
- Interministerial official order (national legal basis for classification).

II Classification procedure applied in FRANCE

II-2 Classification method for mountain areas

A software program is used to calculate, using **digital terrain models**, a **grade for the handicaps affecting a defined area**. This grading is based on **slope and altitude** in the region concerned.

From a **handicap grade higher than 2** an area is deemed to meet the conditions for classification as a mountain area.

II Classification procedure applied in FRANCE

II-3 Method for classification as a 'simple' Less Favoured Area

The application made by the state departmental services needs to demonstrate that the municipalities for which the classification is requested meet the technical and economic conditions described above.

III Classification results

	Number of municipalities	Area in square km	% of total national land area
Mountain & high mountain areas	6,229	126,910	18.8
'Simple' Less Favoured Areas	10,207	163,362	24.2
Areas affected by specific handicaps	545	10,155	1.5

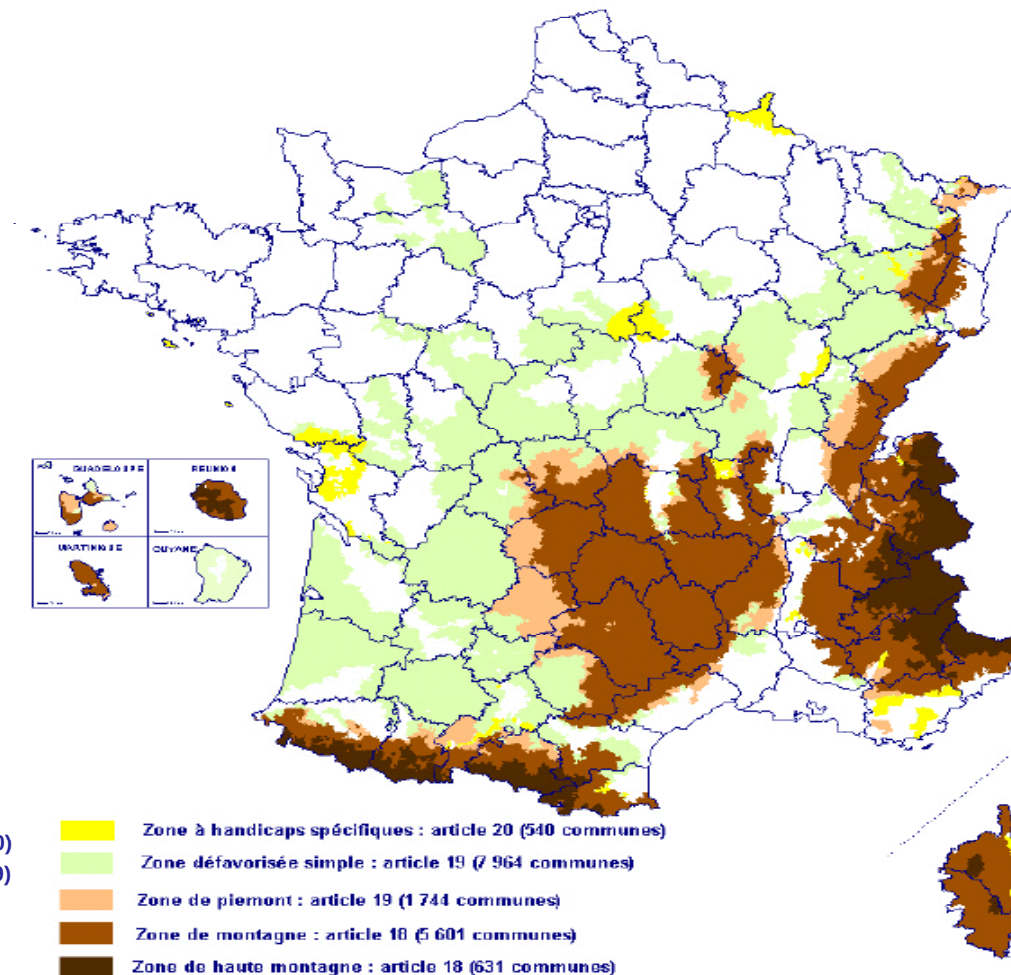
Tirana, 21 March 2011



MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
DE L'ALIMENTATION
DE LA PÊCHE
DE LA RURALITÉ
ET DE L'AMÉNAGEMENT
DU TERRITOIRE

III Classification of results

Map of Less Favoured Areas in France



Areas with specific handicaps (Article 20)
'Simple' Less Favoured Areas (Article 19)
Piedmont (Article 19)
Mountain (Article 18)
High Mountain (Article 18)

Source: MAAP

IV Outcomes of classification – Average support per holding

	Mountain holdings	Piedmont holdings	'Simple' Less Favoured Areas	All agricultural holdings
Number of holdings	75 894	21 506	91 635	506 928
Total amount of support (€)	25,635	27,656	32,653	27,803
Including second pillar	10,662	6,094	2,787	2,888
Compensatory Allowance for Natural Handicaps (ICHN)	7,665	3,013	1,163	1,599

Multi-Country Workshop on Less Favoured Areas
Tirana, 21 March 2011

V Some concluding remarks

V-1 The support regimes impacted by the definition of mountain areas (cf. law of 1985 on mountain areas laying down the principle of a specific policy for mountain areas subject to development, improvement or conservation).

- Support per hectare for holdings: ICHN (measures no's 211 and 212)
- Support for young farmers setting up in the industry (measure no.112)
- Support for investment
 - Livestock buildings modernisation premium (121 A)
 - Farm machinery support (121 A)
 - Additional regional schemes (121 C)
 - Pastoral farming (323 C)
- Support for reforestation of farming land (221)
- Support for agro-forestry (222)
- Support for mountain dairy farming (First pillar, Article 68)

V Some concluding remarks

Reference amount per hectare of Compensatory Allowance for Natural Handicaps (ICHN) (ceiling 50 hectares):

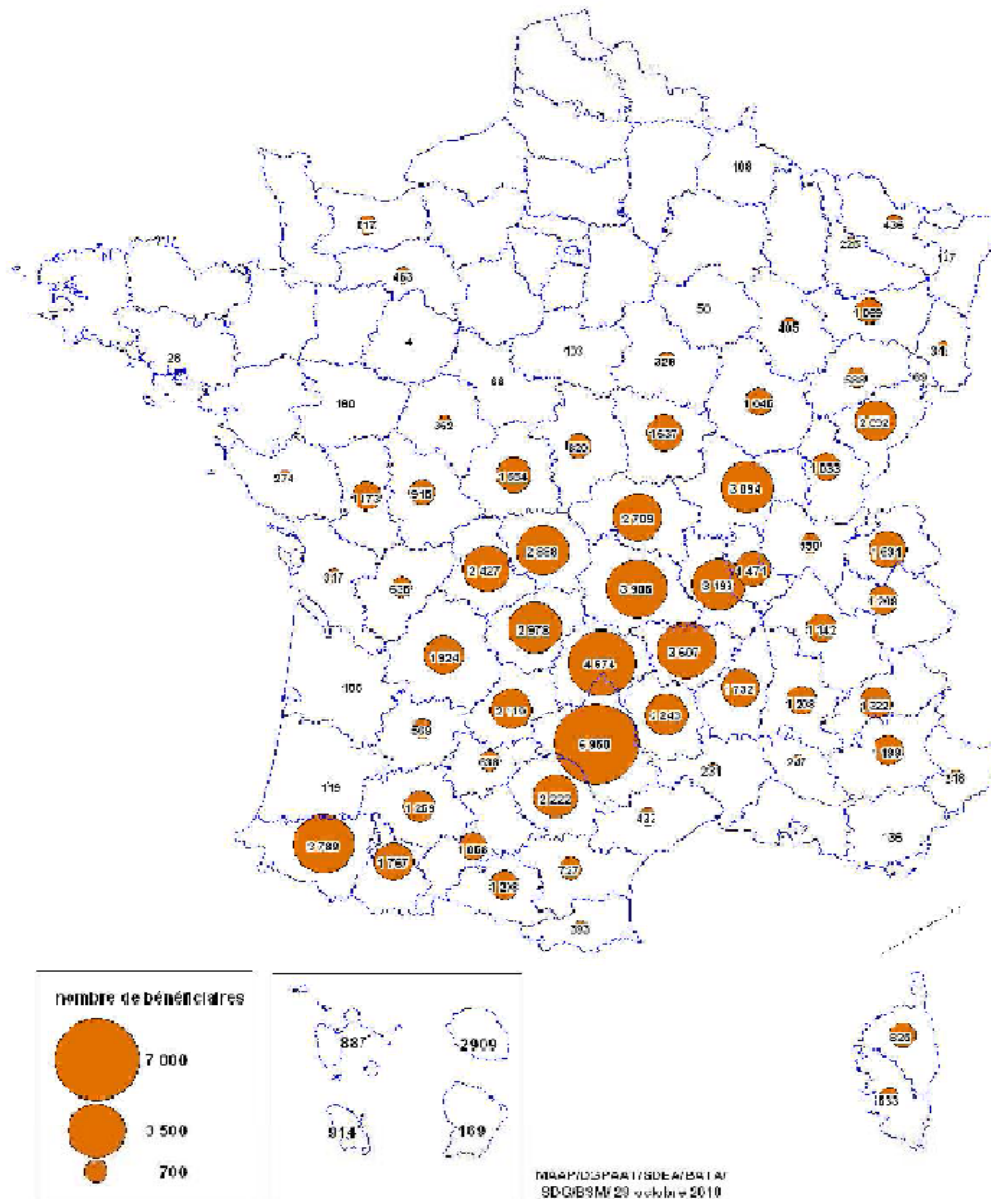
- High mountain: € 221 par hectare
- Mountain: € 136 par hectare
- Piedmont: € 55 par ha
- 'Simple' LFA: € 49 par hectare



MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
DE L'ALIMENTATION
DE LA PÊCHE
DE LA RURALITÉ
ET DE L'AMÉNAGEMENT
DU TERRITOIRE

Indemnités Compensatoires de Handicaps Naturels

Nombre d'exploitations bénéficiaires par département en 2009



V Some concluding remarks

Experience shows that:

it seems to be preferable to build a tool that is valid across the entire territory for the systematic examination of applications at the time the system of classification is put in place, rather than leaving the initiative for application for classification to the local level.

With the réforme it is necessary to have a couverture of the national land with the maps and all the soil/meteorologic informations at an appropriate and homogenous scale.

Discussions with the Commission, or exchanges of experiences with other member states can be very helpful



Thank you for your attention

**Multi-Country Workshop on Less Favoured Areas
Tirana, 21 March 2011**