**Leader Cooperation Proposal: Valorisation of farmers' contributions in terms of carbon sequestration, avoidance or reduction – Call for Partnership**

PETR of Pays Vallée du Loir, a rural and agricultural territory with a wide diversity of productions (mixed cropping and livestock, fruit-growing, wine-growing, etc.), wishes to launch a Leader cooperation project to support its farmers in the financial valuation of their contributions in terms of carbon sequestration, avoidance or reduction.

**Context and Observations**

Faced with the imperatives of ecological transition, the agricultural sector currently has several recognized tools and methods to estimate, measure, and certify carbon storage or emission reductions (e.g.in France, the Bas Carbone Label and its various methods – CarbonAgri for livestock, Large Crops, Carbon F&L for fruits and vegetables, CarbonTester, Dialecte, etc.).

However, while these systems are available, difficulties remain regarding their adaptation, accessibility, and appropriation, especially for certain sectors (complex mixed cropping and livestock farms, fruit-growing, wine-growing, etc.) and for diversified or atypical farms.

Thus, the challenge of our cooperation is not to “reinvent” existing tools but to work together to:

* Adapt, complete, and possibly pool tools and reference frameworks so that they truly cover the diversity of our agricultural systems,
* Facilitate the practical adoption by farmers,
* Simplify the economic valorisation of carbon credits and/or environmental services, while ensuring transparency, fairness, and price stability.

This project will rely on experience gained through a previous cooperation between *Pays de Brest\** and *Pays du Mans\**, related to the creation of a carbon purchasing centre and discussions around the launch of a territorial carbon cooperative.

**Examples of Proposed Actions**

* Conducting a shared assessment: current practices, local sequestration potentials, which tools are already used and how they function,
* Identification, adaptation, and pooling across territories of diagnostic and certification tools and methods for carbon, considering specific sectors (fruit-growing, livestock, wine-growing, etc.),
* Organizing exchange workshops: sharing experiences, farmer testimonials, technical and economic enablers and barriers, training on the use of tools,
* Drafting a common methodological guide for simplified field use,
* Deploying a collaborative platform to pool data, questions, and solutions, and to facilitate access to territorial carbon offers,
* Educational and awareness activities aimed at farmers, consumers, and public decision-makers,
* Support for structuring carbon credit sales channels (aggregation, marketing support, connection with *Le Mans\** purchasing centre, etc.).

**Expected Results**

* Collective skill development of farmers and territories around the use and adaptation of carbon tools,
* Accelerated structuring of agricultural sectors engaged in the transition, recognized for their environmental services,
* Creation of added value and new income streams for farmers through carbon credit sales,
* …and ultimately, an active contribution to fighting climate change.

**Partners Sought**

We are looking for French or European LDS (Local Development Strategy) Groups (LAGs) facing similar challenges: agricultural diversity, sectors seeking adapted tools, strong interest in carbon valorisation. Chambers of agriculture, associations, technical institutes, and partner local authorities are also welcome.

For any expression of interest or request for information, please contact:

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