

# EXPECTATIONS OF THE WINE NETWORK AS REGARD RESEARCH

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## CONTEXT

In the fifty last years (creation of ITV in 1948), research was requested to bring aspects to the problems arising from the network (chronological) :

- fungic diseases (mildew, oïdium, black-rot, botrytis)
- mechanization of work to the vine and the cellar (reduction in painfullness and the costs, better effectiveness)
- qualitative and medical selection of the vegetable materiel (visual selection of the most robust vineplant then clonal selection)
- agronomic (choice of the understocks, modes of control, chemical weed cont rol)
- oenological (alcoolique and malolactic fermentation, stabilization and conservation of the wines)
- protection of environment (water, ground, air)
- food safety.

Now, the network, from de production to the distribution, must deal with number growing of problems to solve answering two typologies :

- the universalization of the market of the wine, with an increasing competition of the country of the new world, today and tomorrow, oft the PECO (Countries of Central Europe and Eastern)
- expectations of the society which appear particularly in the field of food safety, health, the respect of environment, of the protection of the soils and improvement of the landscapes and which are often translated by an evolution of the regulation.

In this context, the wine network must be increasingly powerful, while the concept of vine growing durable develops in France, as in others countries, which must reply to tree aims :

- to produce grapes and wines of high quality
- to respect the environment and mankind
- to ensure the economic profitability and the perennality of the farming and companies of the network.

## CHALLENGES TO TAKE UP BY RESEARCH

### 1- The challenge of the technical deadlocks

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Many technical deadlocks still remain in vine growing, whose conséquences are prejudicial on the qualitative and économique level :

- Virus disease of “rolling up” (enroulement in French)
- The mortality of the Syrah
- Diseases of wood (Esca, Eutypiose, Black Dead Arm)
- The red coloration of the leaves (average of biological fight)
- The disinfection of the rounds
- Alternatives to the use of copper, sulphur dioxide.

## **2- The challenge of the quality of the products under all its components**

To answer at the request of the consumers, the quality of the products must be unceasingly improved :

- to reinforce the typicity of the wines vintage by the bond with soil, while characterizing and by developing the wine soils
- to reinforce the typicity of the type vine wines
- to control the organoleptic defenders (taste of stopper, earthy tastes and of mildewed)
- to control food safety : no residues, no undesirable molecules (ochratoxine), no products allergens.

The research tasks must allow in particular of :

- to control the stress hydrous and nitrogenized on the basis of indicators
- to characterize the vintage by analytical indicators
- to control principal components of quality (constituent volatile, phenolique compounds)
- to improve the sensory methods of analysis.

## **3- The challenge of the protection of environment**

The viti-vinicultural network strong consumer of products, must be concerned with protection of environment, on the one hand by applying evolution of the regulation, on the other hand by the image near the consumers.

The studies have as an aim of :

- to reduce the utilisation of products to the vine : tools of help with the decision, proportioning according to the target to be protected
- to develop alternatives to the chemical fight : means of biological fight, systems of naturel defense (Eliciteurs)
- to practice a reasoned oenology, by decreasing the use of additives and auxiliary fauna, by preferring the physical methods with the chemical methods
- to treat waste and the effluents
- to decrease consumption of energy.

The awaited results of the taking into account of environment are :

- to improve the assessment in the various compartments : water (wine residues and métabolites, viti-vinicultural effluents), air (produced plant health, evaluation in CO<sub>2</sub>), ground (heavy metals, organic matter, biological life)
- to support the biodiversity (auxiliary fauna)
- to protect and develop the wine landscapes.

#### 4- The challenge of the control of the production costs

In the context of international competition, the control of the production cost is a significant concern of the viti-vinicultural network. Works of research / experimentation must aim at :

- To work out the new techniques or new technical way allowing a profit of competitiveness
- To compare the systems of production (conventional, integrated, reasoned, biological) on technical-economical indicator
- To have an micro-economic approach to reasoning the whole of the technical and technological routes for the exploitation.

The stakes for the viti-vinicultural network are considerable. The results of research can bring significant margins of progress ; for that, it is necessary that research is equipped with means at the level of sales turnover, of the ambitions and the stakes to be raised (the means devoted by the network to the research represent only 0,3 % of the sales turnover).

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