

**REDUCTION OF VINE INPUTS
TECHNOLOGICAL ANSWERS TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL
REGULATIONS**

*Achieved results and necessity of a more complex approach
in the medium term*

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SUMMARY

The fall of inputs in vine growing is an inescapable phenomenon for environmental, economic or lawful reasons.

Fewer inputs tomorrow can also mean others types of inputs.

However we have to be careful with certain misleading short cuts.

The use of substances known as "natural" or auxiliary micro organisms, in particular in integrated production does not exempt certain controls and checks of equivalent nature to those imposed on the substances of synthesis.

Less input is also synonymous with development of new technical routes.

That implies to admit in a temporary and limited way the presence of flora, diseases and parasites and even of some mineral deficiencies.

This farming change is cultural and sociological. It is today necessary to plan to live with the "enemies" that yesterday we have fought against while having sought, often in a vain way, their eradication. That implies for the wine grower to manage a certain form of stress. With the time where integrated production management preaches the good animal being it would be paradoxical to develop an evil being for growers...

The technical assistance can also relate to the economic management of the markets. The blocking system of surplus harvest when this one is of quality can reassure the wine grower on the level of the risk management incurred by lowering its inputs.

The challenge is also technical and scientific. In order to manage frequently unstable balances of cohabitation plant-parasites, it's also necessary to be able to understand what occurs and being able to forecast future evolutions.

Little progress was recently obtained in this field with the scale of the whole plant.

One cannot currently characterize the variations of the level of natural defences of the vine during the vegetative cycle. This difficulty returns for the moment random the strategies of fight with substances, which stimulate or increase natural defences.

If the efforts of research, which relate to the molecular level, are useful and legitimate, it is essential to complete the approach.

One will need a built and coherent approach for a more complex level, that of the whole plant. That passes by a reintroduction in the ecosystem of the search for "large general practitioners" able to cover a transverse vision of the possibilities of research to answer the raised practical questions.

If a more strict regulation is a pivot sometimes necessary to hustle practices and inertias, it should not be in too great shift with the development of the less consuming alternative methods of inputs.

If not, the incurred risk would be to move the current problems towards others not yet clearly identified.