

Livestock buildings and photovoltaic: new investments for our breeders in Haute-Vienne

Haut-Mauco, the 28th of September 2023. Diversification of the activities, preservation of the virtuous know-how, deployment of renewable energies, the Maïsadour Cooperative, through its subsidiary Elevage Service, implement a development plan to boost the poultry chain in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region. At the time of agroecological transition, and facing the increasing price of energy, many farmers are looking at photovoltaic. Maïsadour's objective is ambitious: 50 new livestock buildings equipped with photovoltaic by 2026.



Livestock building for Red Label chickens in Saint-Méard (87)

Inauguration of new livestock buildings equipped with photovoltaic panels at Saint-Méard

To diversify its activities, the farm of Saint-Méard, which initially produced suckler cows, decided to build 4 Label Rouge chicken buildings. With 2,500m² of photovoltaic panels spread across these 4 new buildings, the site of Saint-Méard wants to set the example about deploying renewable energy and to carry the ambitions of Maïsadour and its subsidiary Fermiers du Sud-Ouest in the region to reboost the poultry industry.

To modernize the livestock buildings and install solar panels, the farmers have invested €512,000. However, almost a third of the project at Saint-Méard was financed by leasing the roof for solar power!

There are three possible options for photovoltaics: the farmer invests directly in the photovoltaic panels, the farmer rents his roof and allows a company to install the panels in exchange for either a fixed sum or a rent.

Thanks to the financing from the expert company and the subsidies, the farmers at Saint-Méard paid nothing to install the photovoltaic panels. The solar installations on the site thus provide the farmers with additional income and contribute to the long-term future of the farm.

At the inauguration of the new buildings on Thursday 28 September, Virginie PETIT, breeder and Maïsadour administrator, highlighted the importance of the chain on the territory: *“The exemplary site of Saint-Méard is the result of several years of work that is realized thanks to the tenacity of the breeder and the support of*

the Chamber of Agriculture of Haute-Vienne. I welcome this initiative for the preservation of a performing agricultural chain in the South-West of France.”

Maïsadour, a precursor group for photovoltaic

Maïsadour has been a pioneer in terms of renewable energy since 2008, the Elevage Service company has equipped **192 agricultural sites with photovoltaic panels in Nouvelle-Aquitaine**.

As soon as a farmer wants to buy a building, Maïsadour will offer as much as possible to equip it with solar panels. This is the watchword set by the cooperative to deploy renewable energy on the farms. **Objective: 50 new livestock buildings equipped with photovoltaic by 2026.**

During the last five years, the animal production branch of Maïsadour equipped 10 breeders, which represents **11,520 m² of buildings with solar panels**. Of all the farmers who have photovoltaic panels, more than 20% of them use them for self-consumption and 80% resell the produced electricity.

Gilles AGUT, Director of the Poultry Chain in Périgord, Maïsadour Group: *“Poultry is a well-structured and secure production with a fixed income and a structured chain. We believe in this production, symbol of the know-how of the region and of the gastronomic traditions. To ensure the renewal of the farms and perpetuate this chain, our goal is to equip approximately 50 buildings with photovoltaic panels over the next 3 years to welcome new breeders.”*

ABOUT THE MAÏSADOUR COOPERATIVE GROUP

Since 1936 Maïsadour has been a committed Cooperative from the South-West of France, with a CSR Committed label, placing Man and the Living at the center of its concerns, for a sustainable agriculture, food and society. Maïsadour develops chains of excellence that meet the expectations of consumers to promote, in France and in 50 countries, the productions of its farmers. “At Maïsadour, we are working together for the success of our members and are developing the future of our territories”. The Group, structure around the Agricultural Activities, Seed and Food Business Lines, markets gourmet product under the brands Maison Delpeyrat and Comtesse du Barry and Red Label poultry under the brands St-Sever and Marie Hot. www.maisadour.com

Key information

Governance: Daniel Peyraube, President / Christophe Bonno Executive Director
Turnover for fiscal year 2021-2022: €1.415 billion/ 5,000 farmers and 4,300 employees

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