

# Economy of forage seed production

## Crop practices and costs

### TALL FESCUE

#### Seed uses

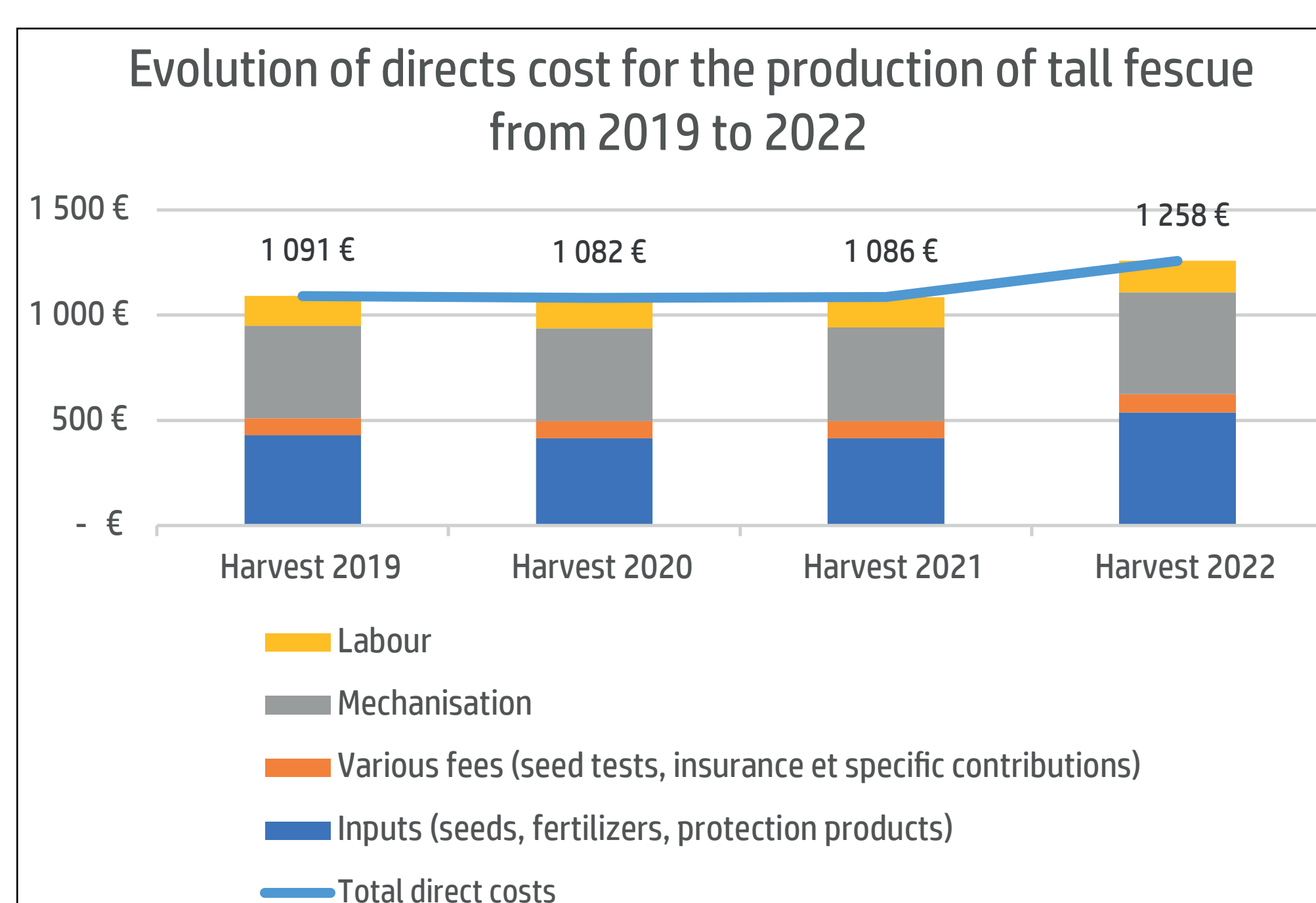
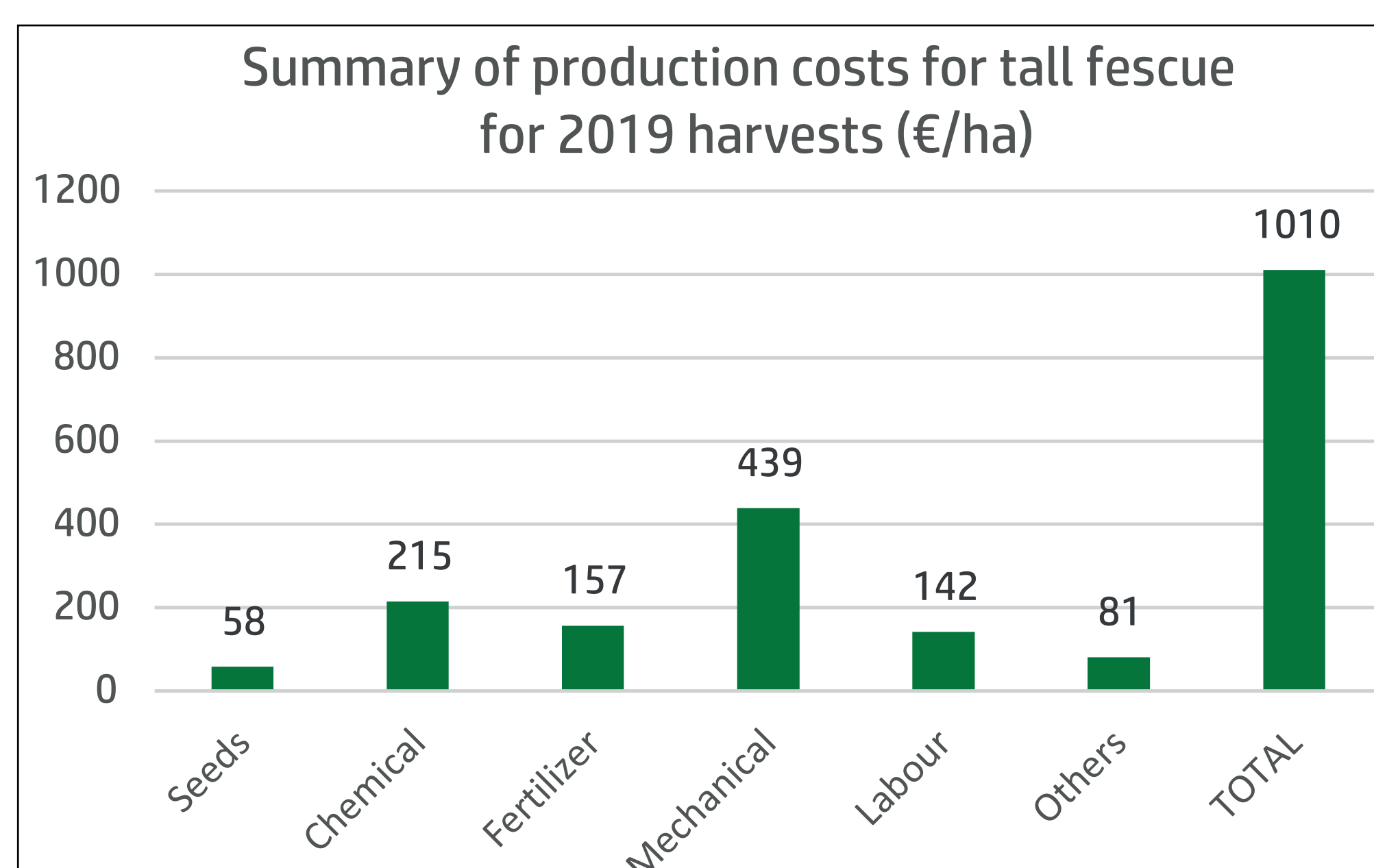
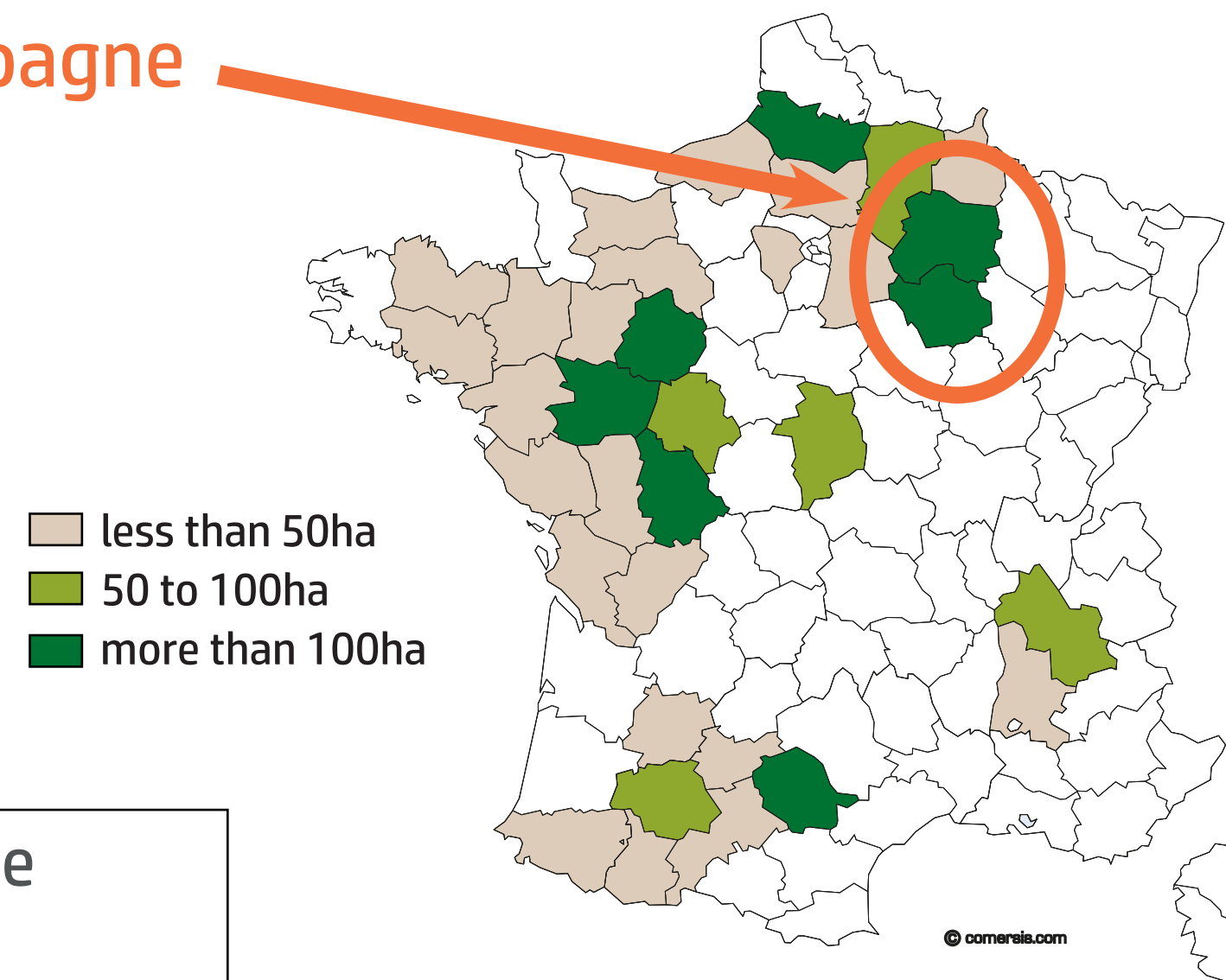
- forage
- turf

Last reference = FNAMS expert assessment for the 2019 harvest

Standard region = Champagne

2022 area of tall fescue seed growing – data SEMAE

Champagne



The cost of production has increased by 15% only because of the change in practices between the 2014 reference and the 2019 reference.

These changes mainly concern the crop protection program:

- Observation of 3 applications of weedkillers (compared to 2 before)
- Approval of a new product makes it possible to control rodents, which also requires time to apply the granules in vole holes (1.5h/ha)

Other important changes concern harvesting techniques, with the development of swathing. Until now, harvesting was done with two combine runs. From 2019 onwards, swathing will be preferred, followed by harvesting with a combine.

Tall fescue		1st year of production			
Standard region: Champagne Standard farm: Main crop		Crop practice	Inputs (€/ha)	Mechanical labour (€/ha)	Working time (h/ha)
<b>INSTALLATION</b>					
Sowing	Conventional seed drill followed by 1 roller passage 7 kg/ha basic seed		58	52	0,8
Subtotal installation			58	52	0,8
<b>CROP PROTECTION</b>					
Weeds	2 application in fall: BOXER 500 SC (2l) TOLURGAN 50 SC (2l) + DEFI (5l) 1 application in fall or spring: ARIANE NEW (2,5l)		143	32	0,3
Diseases	1 application: ZAKEO XTRA (1l/ha)		31	11	0,1
Growth substance	1 application: TRIMAXX (0.8l)		34	11	0,1
Rodent control	1 application: RATRON GL (0.3kg/ha)		8	23	1,5
Subtotal crop protection			215	77	2,0
<b>FERTILIZATION</b>					
Nitrogenous	Fall: 40 U if sowing below cereals Spring: 140 U by 2 applications		98	32	0,3
PK et other minerals	P: 25 U K: 90 U NB: The quantities recorded correspond to the annual export requirements of the crop		60	0	0,1
Subtotal fertilization			157	32	0,4
<b>OTHER SPECIFIC OPERATION - MAINTENANCE OF THE CROP</b>					
Purification			0	6	0,4
Fall maintenance by grinding/cutting	After cover crop harvest: 1 grinding of cover Fall: 1 cut for regularization		0	113	1,4
Subtotal maintenance			0	120	1,8
<b>HARVEST</b>					
Harvest preparation			0	10	1,0
Harvest	Swathing Swaths pick-up		0	190	0,5
Subtotal harvest			0	201	1,5
<b>POST-HARVEST</b>					
Drying / ventilation	Ventilation		0	87	2,4
Packaging	0.33 h /ha		0	11	0,3
Subtotal post-harvest			0	98	2,7
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>430</b>	<b>580</b>	
Various fees (seed testing, FNAMS & SEMAE contributions, specific insurances) €/ha				81	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COST €/ha</b>				<b>1091</b>	
<b>TOTAL working time h/ha</b>					<b>9,1</b>

### COST PRODUCTION ASSESSMENT

The reference of cultural practices is frequently updated.

2012	2015	2019	2023
Farmer survey	Farmer survey	Expert assessment	Farmer survey (in progress)

The cost of cultural practices is yearly updated with different index.

	Minimum legal wage	Fertilizer	Crop protection	Mechanical	Energy	Price index
Data	French Government	INSEE - IPAMPA	INSEE - IPAMPA	INSEE - IPAMPA	INSEE - IPAMPA	INSEE
Nature of the expenses	Labour	Fertilizer	Plant protection products	Mechanisation (without gazoil and depreciation)	Gazoil	Seed Contribution Depreciation

INSEE = French official institute of statistics / IPAMPA = purchase price index for agricultural inputs

Recognised by the SEMAE (interprofessional organisation that federates growers and seed companies)