



Press release—January 9, 2020

## **INRAE: a new high-impact institute for research and innovation in agriculture, food, and the environment**

**INRAE is France's new National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment. It was born on January 1, 2020, from the merger of INRA and IRSTEA. Because of its size and research breadth, INRAE is ranked number one in the world for research on agriculture, food, and the environment. The institute was officially launched today by Frédérique Vidal, Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, and Didier Guillaume, Minister of Agriculture and Food. By their sides was Philippe Mauguin, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of INRAE.**

Humankind and the planet are facing global changes that will create new challenges for research to address: limiting the effects of and adapting to climate change; increasing food security and nutrition security; transitioning to new agricultural systems; preserving natural resources; restoring biodiversity; and anticipating and managing risks. To rise to these challenges, France's new National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE) was born on January 1, created by the merger of INRA, the National Institute for Agricultural Research and IRSTEA, the National Research Institute of Science and Technology for the Environment and Agriculture. Its objective is to perform impact-driven research with a view to generating knowledge, providing training, fostering innovation, and informing public policies.

This process to create a new Public Scientific and Technical Research Establishment (EPST) began in February 2018 with the support of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. It followed on the heels of an initial evaluation period during which it became clear that the new institute would have tremendous research potential and create strong synergies. INRAE is the final result of a close two-year collaboration between the two former institutes' work communities.

*"Now, more than ever, it is crucial to accelerate the transitions that will permanently transform how we grow food, produce food, and interact with the environment. Hand-in-hand with society, INRAE is committed to using science, innovation, and support for public policies to identify solutions that meet people's expectations."*  
*Philippe Mauguin, Chaire & CEO of INRAE*

INRAE is a community of 12,000 people and an annual budget of more than 1 billion euros. The institute is made up of around 200 regular research units and 40 experimental research units that are organised into 14 scientific divisions and 18 research centres found across France. INRAE's headquarters are split between Paris and Antony.

The institute firmly believes that science should be open, participatory, and reflective of societal expectations. For this reason, it has a directorate specifically dedicated to open science. INRAE carries out basic and applied research, and its work is strengthened by its partnerships with academic institutions, socioeconomic stakeholders, and regional

policymakers. In line with these commitments, it is the first EPST to have a Directorate of Expertise & Support for Public Policies.

INRAE is part of France's dynamic network of research institutes and establishments of higher education. It is partnered with 33 local universities and contributes to local policies and French thematic research alliances. Thanks to its international partnerships, the institute collaborates with the best research teams in Europe and the world.

#### INRAE in figures

Community of 12,000 people  
2020 budget of more than 1 billion euros  
18 research centres found throughout France  
11,000 ha of experimental land  
268 research units, experimental research units, and support units  
Partnerships with 33 local universities  
Participant in 166 European research projects

More than 4,000 top-tier publications generated per year  
More than 450 socioeconomic partners  
5 Carnot Institutes  
137 start-ups home grown at INRAE since 1999  
2,000 PhD students (40% from foreign countries)  
Recipient of the European Commission's Human Resources (HR) Excellence in Research Award

#### Press Relations:

INRAE Press Office: +33 (0)1 42 75 91 86 – [presse@inrae.fr](mailto:presse@inrae.fr)

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INRAE, the French National Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment, created on 1st of January 2020, is a major player in research and innovation. INRAE is a targeted research institute resulting from the merger of INRA and IRSTEA. It is a community of 12,000 people with over 200 research units and about 40 experimental units located in 18 regional centers throughout France. The institute is among the world leaders in agricultural and food sciences, in plant and animal sciences, and is 11th in the world in ecology and environment. INRAE's main goal is to be a key player in the transitions necessary to address major global challenges. In the face of the increase in population, climate change, scarcity of resources and decline in biodiversity, the institute develops solutions for multiperformance agriculture, high quality food and sustainable management of resources and ecosystems.

science for people, life & earth

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