

Vincent is a farmer in the Alpes-Maritimes region, he is a breeder.

*How long have you been working as a farmer?*

I have been practicing this profession for 15 years now.

*In your opinion, have there been many changes in this area since you started? If yes, which ones ?*

Yes and no. The base of the business remains the same but production techniques continue to evolve, thanks to new technologies.

*Were your parents and / or grandparents also farmers?*

No.

*Why did you choose to become a farmer?*

I have always been attracted to this profession, and I knew people who were in the field of agriculture.

*Has the adoption of European standards had an impact on the way you produce?*

No, not particularly, apart from the new administrative constraints.

*What do you think of organic farming? Do you think this is an area that will continue to grow and spread?*

I think it is great. Yes, in the future this is an area that will continue to evolve. The only problem I can find is the marketing of this form of agriculture. Large groups are beginning to produce organically, but small farmers will no longer benefit. These big companies have realized that this label attracts consumers.

*Are your products sold mainly in the region? Do you have customers abroad?*

Yes, I only sell in the region. I do not have any customers abroad.

*What are the difficulties you have faced during your career?*

I have been regularly faced with difficulties, such as the new constraints and standards imposed by the European Union. Every 3-5 years they change, and we must keep records that are controlled with rigor. On top of that, there is land pressure because of urban sprawl. Finally, global warming has had a big impact on our job, we can't control the weather. Last year, for example, it did not rain for months.

*Do you think that one day machines will replace men?*

I think it will always be necessary to have men, machines will never be able to recognize and analyze certain problems. Would you go to a machine instead of a doctor when you're sick? In some areas, new technologies have led to job losses, but in the livestock sector I have not noticed any changes.

*How do you see the future of agriculture?*

It is very complicated, there is more and more competition from other European countries. The French workforce is on average 30-40% more expensive than in other countries like Germany or Spain. In addition, products that do not meet the standards are starting to arrive on the French market. One example that comes to my mind is GMO-modified beef. These products are much cheaper but are not of the same quality as the products regulated in France.