



INSTITUT NATIONAL
DE L'ORIGINE ET DE
LA QUALITÉ



INAO

and international cooperation

Explaining the principles of French policy and interest in SIQO (Official quality and origin signs) agricultural and foodstuff products, how the process works and what the economic, territorial and social benefits are can actually be tailored to suit the agricultural objectives of many countries.

Sharing experiences is also an effective way of protecting French SIQO products, especially GI (Geographical indications) and introducing these concepts to the international debating forum.

With this in mind, **INAO (the French national institute for origin and quality products) is developing international cooperation initiatives in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.** These activities include hosting foreign delegations, seminars and conferences participation and other events abroad, and provision of technical support.

Proposed initiatives are integrated within the remit of a Ministry of Agriculture **influencing strategy** and respond to guidelines set out by INAO. Tactics include working with countries where counterfeiting has been detected or

where there is some potential for alliance in negotiations.

A network of experts has been established to carry out said initiatives, coordinated by the Institute's legal and international department.

SEVERAL INITIATIVES ARE OUTLINED BELOW (2015/2016)

USA:

April 2015: the Idaho potato growers association and the American origin products association (AOPA) visit France. This provided a forum for discussion on the topic of Geographical indications with professional potato growers from Île de Ré (who grow Controlled/Protected designation of origin products) and representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture. A protocol of cooperation between INAO, AOPA and OriGIN France was signed.

TURKEY:

Turkey showed an interest in developing its GI system. Two missions took place in situ in 2015 and in June 2016

a delegation was hosted in France. These meetings paved the way for an assessment of Turkish legislation in the light of European regulations and for highlighting required developments such as the introduction of effective control system.

ALGERIA:

The twinning between INAO and Algeria came to an end in 2016. A tool for recognising and monitoring quality labels for AO (Designation of origin) and GI (Geographical indication) products was set up. Two products received GI status (Béni Maouche figs and Tolga dates) in 2016.

Other countries are involved with INAO in International cooperation initiatives: Ecuador, Armenia, Georgia, Kosovo, Albania, Burma, Japan, Canada, and Moldova...

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