

Sweden

Council of Ministers of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

“What European strategy to strengthen EU agricultural sovereignty while stimulating sustainable production methods?”

Sweden is a constitutional monarchy. Since October 18, 2022, Sweden has a new government consisting of the Prime Minister and 23 ministers. The Democrats of Sweden are the big winners of the September 2022 legislative elections. The party becomes, with a score of 20.7%, the second party in the country, and the first of a new right-wing bloc. The question asked today is : “What European strategy to strengthen EU agricultural sovereignty while stimulating sustainable production methods?”

Thus, ensuring healthy and nutritious food, in sufficient quantity, at an affordable and stable price for both urban and rural populations, including the poorest, requires local, governmental but also intergovernmental actions. Food remains a major public policy issue. Its challenge is to feed 9 to 10 billion people by 2050 through sustainable food systems that are resilient to the emergence of global risks such as climate change. It is in this context that the Europe and International strategy, launched at the International Agricultural Show, on March 2, 2018, fits. How support the transition to systems providing sustainable solutions ? how to strengthen the international positioning of European companies, know-how and public expertise ? How to participate in strengthening the global governance of production and consumption systems by coordinating the ministry's action with all the stakeholders?

Sweden has its place in this debate. given that it is in 2014, ranked first greenest country in the world by the Global Green Economy Index. Sweden has strengthened its food independence since 80% of food and drinks are produced locally. Admittedly, fruits and vegetables are still mostly imported; but in terms of animal welfare, the Swedes are careful: the national legislation is one of the strictest in the world in terms of animal protection and breeding conditions. Today, the transition to organic farming is well and truly underway: 15.7% of cultivated areas are organic. If the tax on chemical fertilizers did not resist the 2010 elections (users of pesticides and chemical fertilizers lobbied for its abolition), Sweden remains among the European leaders in terms of agricultural transition.

Organic products with the KRAV label are a reminder that farmers' rights are respected and that farms are subject to environmental protection rules that exceed EU requirements. Farms must use clean energy for agricultural equipment and reduce the energy consumed for each product. In 2015, environmental requirements will increase further via an obligation to transition to 100% renewable energy for farms that want to be labeled KRAV. A first in Europe. Sweden is defined as the country with the cleanest agriculture in the world. Similarly, Swedish breeders have reasoned their dairy system towards an agriculture reconciling economic, social and environmental logics. Sweden is investing in local production to improve its food self-sufficiency and meet the new demand for vegan products. As demand for vegan food increases in Sweden, the government has invested €2.5 million in local projects to boost the country's agricultural potential. By focusing on crops such as broad bean, the initiative aims to increase the competitiveness of the national vegan sector and make vegan diets more sustainable. Although the country is experiencing difficult conditions for agriculture, innovations could lead to increased growth in the agricultural sector.

Finally, Sweden contributed to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: ITPGRFA) is an international agreement aimed at ensuring food security through the conservation of biodiversity, the exchange and use sustainable use of plant genetic resources, while ensuring benefit sharing. The name of this treaty is often abbreviated as "Seed Treaty" and is adopted on 3 November 2001 by the 31st Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Treaty entered into force on June 29, 2004.

We are therefore committed to this cause and ready to make new efforts. We are interested in any innovation, solution, which could carry out this project. Coalitions, joint projects for sustainable agriculture are important to us.