
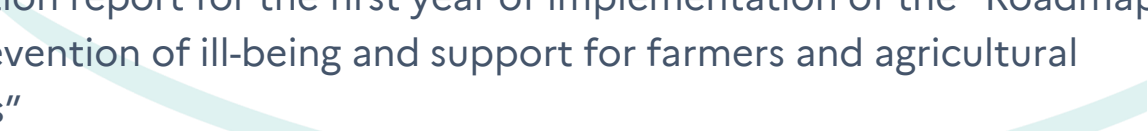




Prevention of ill-being and suicide risk in farming



Capitalisation report for the first year of implementation of the “Roadmap for the prevention of ill-being and support for farmers and agricultural employees”



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SUMMARY

The publication on 3 February 2022, under the aegis of the Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Health, Solidarity and Labour, of the interministerial circular on *"the methods for managing the roadmap for the prevention of ill-being and for supporting farmers and agricultural employees"* and the simultaneous appointment of a national coordinator, launched the implementation of this roadmap announced on 23 November.

This represents, for the first time in such a formal way, the affirmation of an interministerial public policy on the prevention and management of suicide risk and ill-being in farming. This new concern is indicative, not only of a greater sensitivity of society to suicide risk and, more generally, psychosocial risks, as seen in other sectors, but also the consequences of the profound change that agriculture is undergoing today, this "third agricultural revolution", which significantly increases the pressures on farmers and agricultural production workers alike. In this respect, it is worth noting the relevance of the choice made at the launch to not limit the scope of this policy to farmers alone, but to extend it to all agricultural workers, engaged in agricultural production, regardless of their status, who face partly similar risks.

The developments that led to the roadmap just over a year after its launch have helped to shape a comprehensive plan for this population to prevent and manage ill-being and suicide risk in farming, based on:

- Improving knowledge of risk and risk factors (part 1).
- Primary prevention by tackling risk factors (part 2).
- The detection, support and management of persons at risk (part 3).
- The involvement of all stakeholders through an original and flexible coordination system at both national and territorial level (part 4).

The roadmap thus leads to a public policy for preventing the psychosocial consequences of agricultural changes that addresses all risk factors (economic, professional, social, family, societal and environmental) and becomes an integral part of the agricultural policy and is part of the dynamics of the Pact and the Agricultural Orientation Law (PLOAA).

Beyond action on risk factors, the roadmap also aims to implement systems to detect, support, guide and manage people at risk as part of a health pathway approach.

These two dimensions explain the choice of both the broadest possible partner deployment of the prevention plan, and as close as possible to the areas of the care pathway for people at risk, in compliance with the three principles adopted when the roadmap was launched:

- **A comprehensive and personalistic approach** to ill-being in farming, which refers to the key word "*Humanise*" in the roadmap was put forward.
- **A strategy of proximity** as part of a "go to" approach which finds concrete expression in the installation of devices that are as close to people as possible.
- **A public policy of an interministerial and inter-partnership nature** based on the solidarity of all "*stakeholders*" and exceeding ideological, institutional, professional or intellectual divisions, to provide coordinated responses to this cause, which is the prevention of suicide risk in farming.

At the end of the first year of implementation, the national and territorial bodies (generally departmental) provided for in the roadmap were set up and found their place in the agricultural institutional landscape, where they enrich and complement, in their human, social and psychosocial dimensions, the agricultural development policy implemented from the sixties onwards to provide technical and economic agricultural support.

In accordance with the mission statement, this report thus results in forty-three operational recommendations relating to:

- Knowledge of the risk of suicide and, more generally, ill-being in agriculture, affecting both farmers and agricultural employees, in particular with the referral of the Haute Autorité de Santé (HAS) to develop "*recommendations of good practices for managing the risk of suicide in farming*".
- Action on the various risk factors, in particular those resulting from the significant changes in agricultural professions and the tensions that develop between agriculture and society, which may be part of the deployment and extension of the Agricultural Orientation and Future Act (PLOAA).
- The establishment of a pathway for the detection, support and management of people at risk, as close as possible to the territories, on the basis of a local diagnosis, aimed at ensuring full coverage of the national territory, including the overseas departments-regions.
- The national and territorial management of this plan, based on a flexible interministerial and inter-partnership coordination system involving, without exception, all of the stakeholders concerned and intended to be part of the national agricultural development policy.

The third agricultural revolution in progress, the multiple and multifaceted crises affecting agriculture and, as a result, the people whose livelihood depends on it both in their working life and personal life, requires in effect the development of their resilience capacities and to this end appropriate forms of support for their benefit.