

## Press release

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# Agreenium, assessment of one year of governance

A meeting of the Agreenium Board of Directors was held on 24 November last year in Paris, one year after its first meeting which appointed Marion Guillou as its Chairperson and Bernard Vallat as its Vice-Chairperson. This world-class tandem in the agricultural and veterinary fields is highly involved within this singular cooperation structure and measures the path travelled. Claude Bernhard, the Institute's Director, joins them in their testimonials.

## What have been your priorities and the main results achieved?

**Marion Guillou** : the Institute has been set up, now with fourteen members from higher education and four from research. Its first priority guidelines have been discussed and adopted as proposed by its members to engage in cooperative work in several fields, including the digital university or agroecology training courses, and between members on their chosen topics: vines and wine, water, disease vectors, urban-country engineering, veterinary training benchmark between the schools, exposure of the collective training courses available and international projects.

**Bernard Vallat** : we brought together the national agricultural teaching and research players formally around the table to develop actions of common and national interest.

**Claude Bernhard** : one priority was to form an operational team. This has been in place since the beginning of the academic year in September 2016 in its near-definitive configuration.

### What problems have you encountered in administering the Institute? How can its operation be improved?

**MG:** the challenge is to create a spirit of cooperation between eighteen members who are not accustomed to working together.

**BV:** financial and human investment returns have to be assessed and the international/national research and teaching portfolios rebalanced for progress to be made.

**CB:** our structure has to remain lean and focus on topics that give our members added value. This assumes transparent procedures and the introduction of cooperation tools.

### Has the Institute found its place in its environment?

**MG:** the Institute is making sense internationally and makes the French training and research system more accessible to international public and private partners. It is gradually building up its added value nationally by fostering synergies or the organisation of complementary activities between its members which could thus respond better to external training or development requests.

**BV:** we have to persevere! Continue to unite national agricultural teaching and research players to target excellence in the national interest and promote its international outreach.

**CB:** Agreenium has responded to calls for future investment projects on digital issues, concrete examples which show that we are responding to needs with major challenges.

### What course do you wish to give the Board for 2017?

**MG:** MG: the course for 2017 is to dialogue more with our stakeholders meeting in the Strategic Guidelines Committee to readjust our priorities and to reflect concretely with our members to do more and better together under our mission.

### How do you see your role of Vice-Chairperson?

**BV:** advise the Chairperson and all key players in all areas where I may be able to add value based on my training and my national and international experience. Stand in for the Chairperson at her request for certain files or activities.

**Marion Guillou** carries out national and international responsibilities within public bodies, especially in relation to food security, research and skills training in the agricultural and food sectors. She also sits on boards of private companies and is the author of many publications and reports. Marion Guillou chaired Inra from 2004 to 2012.

**Bernard Vallat** headed up the World Organisation for Animal Health for some fifteen years and chaired the Board of Directors of the National Veterinary College of Toulouse from 2007 to 2013. Bernard Vallat, who holds a PhD in veterinary science, is a general public health inspector. He has spent most of his career in international cooperation and at the service of international organisations.

**Claude Bernhard** has been director of two Agreenium member schools in succession (ENGEES and AgroSup Dijon) and was a researcher at IRSTEA. Having defended his PhD in 1985, he was involved in teaching and educational engineering in engineering colleges, training specialist Master's students, including internationally, in close conjunction with the business world, authorities and public administrations.

**Agreenium**, the French Agricultural, Veterinary and Forestry Institute, was created by the Law of 13 October 2014 on the future of agriculture, food and forestry. The Institute's primary calling is to organise cooperation between its members: cooperation on agricultural training, veterinary cooperation, training of teaching staff and supervision of technical agricultural teaching. The Institute brings together the skills and groups the expertise of its eighteen members, develops a common strategic approach, gives them exposure and increases their capacity for action, especially on the international stage.

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