

GOOD PRACTICES

The "Point Vert" Experience

THE LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) PAYS DES CONDRESSES PROVIDES FREE ACCESS TO LAND FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS FOR AN 18 MONTHS PERIOD, AS WELL AS TRAINING AND ADVICE ON ORGANIC MARKETING, GARDENING AND HORTICULTURE.

1 Context: Belgium (Walloon region)



- Difficulties attracting and retaining young people in rural areas.
- High land prices.
- Need to apply innovation.

2 Target group



Youngsters from urban areas who want to start a business in rural environments who lack a background in the primary sector.

3 Goal: Rural development through youth entrepreneurship



The project aims to foster economic development in the area by supporting the creation of innovative, local, small agricultural enterprises by young people. Providing them with access to land, technical and business support as well as access to local selling points.

4 Project incubator farm



1. Access to land and to the Green House
2. Entrepreneurship training (Crea Job)
3. Technical training in organic market (ASBL Devenirs)
4. Business advice and market access

5 Collaborative methodology



The project is the result of a strong partnership involving several local organizations with multiple skills and areas of expertise.

It involves the local municipalities, the agricultural school and Créajob, a business incubator. Participants are welcome to farm within the Point Vert structure for one to three years (or even longer periods). All of the above is free of charge to participants, except for a small monthly fee for the use and maintenance of irrigation structures and communal equipment.

6 Results from 2011 to 2017



- 20 candidates of which 10 have settled in organic farming in the area.
- The methodology has stepped-up at regional level.

GAL Pays des Condresses is a non-profit association grouping 7 municipalities in the province of Liège (Anthisnes, Clavier, Marchin, Modave, Nandrin, Ouffet and Tinlot) to promote sustainable agriculture and landscape management.