



Jacques CAPLAT

Curriculum Vitae – Background

MSc Agronomy, PhD Social Anthropology

Independent consultant, lecturer, author

Languages: French, English, Italian

www.changeonsdagriculture.fr - <https://www.ouiboss.com/profile/jacquescaplat>

Immersed in agriculture since childhood; I feel linked to the collective history of the farming world, notably via my father Gérard Caplat who held the position of Vice-President of Nature & Progrès between 1991 and 1994.

AGRONOMY AND PUBLIC POLICY

In 1994, I completed my studies as an agricultural engineer with a 6-month survey in traditional agriculture in northern Benin (West-Africa), which made me understand all the potential of agroecology and organic farming [cf. Jacques Caplat, *Diagnostic de développement agricole de la région de Perma (Nord-Bénin)*, agronomic engineering thesis, ENITAC, 1994].

From 1996 to 2000, I was an agricultural field adviser in Burgundy (France), in charge of animal husbandry and then organic farming. I provided technical, administrative and economic support to farmers in conversion to organic farming, in all the diversity of the region's production: livestock, field crops, market gardening and viticulture.

From 2000 to 2008, I was one of the coordinators of the FNAB (French federation of organic farming, which gathers all the local organic farmers' groups in France), in charge of:

- agricultural policies (subsidies to organic farmers, reform of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy – CAP),
- studies on the environmental benefits of organic farming,
- partnerships with other French agricultural organisations and with organic research bodies,
- plant-breeding.

In 2001, I took part in an audit on the potential of organic farming on Réunion Island (Indian Ocean).

In 2001-2002, I represented the FNAB in the "consultation group on GMOs" attached to the Prime Minister, where I contributed to slow down and limit the spread of GMOs in France.

In 2003, I was a European observer at the "3rd South Asian People's Forum" (15-18 August) and then at the Asian forum "No patent on life" (19-20 August) in Bangladesh.

In 2007, I carried out a survey on the place of organic farming in the CAP in Italy (Leonardo da Vinci II programme), in partnership with AIAB ; then I was one of the French representatives at the FAO and IFOAM international conference on "Organic Agriculture and Food Security" in Rome.

PLANT BREEDING

In 2002-2003, I was, with Guy Kastler, François Delmond and a few others, one of the founders of the "Réseau Semences Paysannes" (Farmers' Seed Network), of which I remained a board member

until 2008. [cf. Jacques Caplat, *La réappropriation des semences par les paysans, des techniques locales au lobbying national : l'exemple de la création du Réseau Semences Paysannes*, master's in social anthropology, EHESS, 2011]

From 2003 to 2008, I was the coordinator and secretary of the "French expert group on organic seeds", in charge of concerting organic farmers, artisanal seed suppliers, industrial seed companies and the French administration, regarding the implementation of the European regulation on organic seeds. I was then one of the two French representatives in ECO-PB (European consortium on organic plant breeding).

In 2004, I represented the FNAB at the first IFOAM symposium on organic seeds in Rome (FAO).

CONSULTANT, LECTURER ET AUTHOR

Since 2009, I have become an independent expert and have broadened my horizons by taking up studies in social anthropology. My doctoral thesis did not deal with agriculture, but related with the *anthropology of knowledge*, and allowed me to work on the importance of recognising peasant knowledge. [cf. Jacques Caplat, "Savoir-faire ou savoirs ? Comment la sélection paysanne questionne le statut des savoirs traditionnels", in *Histoire & Sociétés Rurales* n°46, pp. 125-153, 2016 ; <https://www.cairn.info/revue-histoire-et-societes-rurales-2016-2-page-125.htm>].

I have published several books on organic farming:

- *Cultivons les alternatives aux pesticides* (Le passager clandestin, 2011),
- *L'agriculture biologique pour nourrir l'humanité* (Actes Sud, 2012),
- *Changeons d'agriculture – Réussir la transition* (Actes Sud, 2014),
- With Pierre Rabhi: *L'agroécologie, une éthique de vie* (Actes Sud, 2015) – *Agroecology: an ethical life* (english edition, 2018).

I am preparing two new books for the end of 2021:

- *Une agriculture qui répare la planète – Les promesses de l'agriculture biologique régénérative* (adaptation for the French public of the book of Vandana Shiva and Andre Leu, *Biodiversity, Agroecology, Regenerative Organic Agriculture*),
- *Deux mains dans la terre*, a comic book about the organic conversion of a cereal farmer (drawing: Laëtitia Rouxel).

Since 2012, I have given between 30 and 50 seminars a year, the main topics of which are "Will organic farming be able to feed the world?", "Agriculture and climate change", "What place for livestock?", "Farmers' seeds", "What kind of agriculture for tomorrow?". The debate part is always at least as important as the conference part, as knowledge must be built through interactions and sharing. I also take part as an expert in round tables, territorial political consultations, business projects and training courses.

VOLUNTEERING

I was a municipal councillor in Paris from 2001 to 2008, I hold since 2016 the position of Secretary General of "Agir Pour l'Environnement" (one of the most important environmental NGOs in France regarding its number of adherents), and I am a member of several scientific committees (experimental farm "Domaine du possible", association Bio Consom'acteurs, association Clim'action Bretagne Sud).

Since 2018, I have joined the board of the French organic label "Bio Cohérence".

In april 2021, I was elected President of IFOAM-France (Self-organized Structure).