

AGRICULTURAL LANDS COUNTY MAPS, METHODOLOGY PROPOSAL FOR PROVENÇALE REGION

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The "Agriculture planning act" of July, 1980, provided that — in each department (french administrative subdivision) — a map of agricultural lands should be made.

• Firstly this paper gives a general survey of the basic texts and practical schemes (see bibliography) leading to a proposal for classification of agricultural lands into six categories, according to productivity level (see classification table).

• Paragraph I describes the concepts and general procedures which are used by the Société du Canal de Provence et d'Aménagement de la Région Provençale to make maps of the Provence, Alps and french Riviera areas.

• Paragraph II gives a detailed description of the applied methodology, which takes into account the various production systems (arboriculture, vine growing, mixed farming, dry or irrigated farming, etc.) and their present productivity and related economic weight.

— a productivity estimate is obtained by using "equivalence coefficients for crops" (see table I) which thanks to a simple calculation method (table II) results in a land classification determined by means of notation scales (see table III);

— to land classification a soil classification is added according to potentiality and specific unfavourable characteristics, which represent the permanent production potential (see table IV);

— an extract of the Chateaufort area map is illustrating this method.

• Comments as well from a farming stand point as on soils and resulting classifications are given under paragraph III.

Table I : Equivalence coefficients for crops

DEPARTEMENTS	04	07	13	26	84
	Alpes de Haute Provence	Ardèche	Bouches du Rhône	Drôme	Vaucluse
CULTURES					
A) CULTURES INTENSIVES					
Serres florales	—	—	120	—	110
Serres chauffées	60	40	36	50	80
Tunnels chauffés	60	40	36	—	60
Tunnels froids	30	20	—	—	20
Petits tunnels	—	—	24	—	—
Maraîchage abrité du vent	—	6	12	10	12
Légumes de plein champ	6	3	3	3	5
Pépinières - Fleurs plein champ	5	10	20	10	10
B) CULTURES PERENNES					
Vignes : Grands crus	—	—	—	—	8
• A.O.C.	—	3,5	3	4	6
• V.D.Q.S.	3	2,5	3	2,5	4
• V.C.C. et raisins de table	3	2,5	3	2,5	—
Vergers irrigués	4	4	3	4	6
Vergers au sec	3	2,5	4	2,5	3,5
Lavandes et lavandins	*	—	3	2	2
C) AUTRES CULTURES					
Production de semences	—	6	2	10	4
Grandes cultures irriguées	3	2	2	2	2
Prairies permanentes et céréales	1	1	1	1	1
Parcours et alpages	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,1
Landes et friches	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,2
Tabac	—	5	—	—	—

* Non chiffré, ce qui est étonnant.

(1) Etudes du Milieu Naturel - Société du Canal de Provence et d'Aménagement de la région Provençale - Le Tholonnet, 13603 Aix-en-Provence.

• Critical testing of this methodology and results shows its advantages, its limitations and the necessity to have it adapted, as soon as conditions of production are too different from those prevailing in the mediterranean area, where they are many types of agriculture.

Table II : Calculation method to classify lands by type of farming

EXEMPLE THEORIQUE			
Vergers irrigués	35 %	× 4	= 140
Céréales irriguées	50 %	× 2	= 100
Vignes C.C.	10 %	× 2,5	= 25
Prairies permanentes	5 %	× 1	= 5
Note totale secteur			270

Table III : Productivity and land classification by department (french administrative subdivision)

Classes de productivité	Couleur carte	Fourchette de notation		
		Départements 13 et 84 Comtat	Départements 07 et 26 Vallée du Rhône	Département 04 Val de Durance
I - Très haute	bleu clair	plus de 800	plus de 400	plus de 450
II - Haute	bleu foncé	600 - 800	300 à 400	350 à 450
III - Bonne	jaune clair	450 - 600	200 à 300	250 à 350
IV - Moyenne	jaune foncé	300 - 450	150 à 200	150 à 250
V - Médiocre	orangé	150 - 300	100 à 150	50 à 150
VI - Faible	rouge	moins de 150	moins de 100	moins de 50

Table IV : Soil classification according to potentiality

Classes Aptitudes des sols	Intensité couleur	Fourchette de notation
A - Excellente	100 %	Plus de 60 points
B - Très bonne	100 %	50 à 60 points
C - Bonne	60 %	40 à 50 points
D - Moyenne	60 %	30 à 40 points
E - Faible	30 %	20 à 30 points
F - Très faible	30 %	10 à 20 points
- Inaptitude	marron	moins de 10