Growing RIVAN92 frogs in France: the pioneer farm

1. ADMIN 35 years gestation

2. ZOOTEC from tadpole to frog legs

3. ECONOMY delicate

4. FUTURE research needed

by Agnès JOLY, PhD, scientific director





ADMINISTRATION

A 30 years process ...

- Tradition in France: Wild collection of frogs in the villages
- 1980: ban for wild collection
- 1980s: INRA starts investigating
- 1992: Pelophylax ridibundus RIVAN92 is born
- 1999: Patrice François initiates the project for raniculture
- ...
- 2006: RIVAN92 listed on the domestic list in France
- ...
- 2011: first froglegs sold from his farm in SE France
- 2016: 2 more farms open in France
- 2017: GdF will open a second farm in Normandy





Legal frame for raniculture in France

- « Protected and quasi invasive specie »
- Forbidden to sell alive frogs
- Forbidden to take from or release in the wild
- Make sure no escape from the farm
- In Europe, only France so far, can farm frogs
- Same legal rules as aquaculture (avril 2008)
- 20 tons limit for ICPE
- Hygiene package and Codex Alimentarius for processing

ADMINISTRATION





4 months aquatic farming - plain water







A critical stage: metamorphosis

- escaping from water









4 to 6 months semi aquatic farming







ZOOTEC

Other farming techniques











... to the plate: today' situation

- 2000 m² farm in a former greenhouse
- 400 000 € investment without land
- 3 to 4 tons yearly =/=> 20 tons
- 40 to 60% yield
- Selling price round 25 €/kg



DELICATE ECONOMICAL BALANCE

- 10 000 tons French market in 1970 4 000 tons now
- 99% import: wild from Turkey and Indonesia, farmed from Vietnam
- Strong demand for Made in France
- High nutritional quality meat
- => GO FOR IT!

- Silver market so far
- Mostly national
- High capital investment
- High administrative burden
- Yet little automation
- Yet little knowledge
- Few examples
- => it is aquaculture !! emerging

10 GRENOUILLE de France

WIDE NEED FOR RESEARCH

Grenouille de France is very open for R&D projects

- Possible pathologies, prevention/treatment
- Water quality
- Reproduction synchronization and planning
- Tadpoles feeding
- Metamorphose management
- Growth: tanks shape, density, temperature, grading, feed type
- Processing automation
- 100% valorization: skin, fat, etc

Merci!

aj@jolymer.fr

