

Internship project (Master 2)

A Choice Experiment on Crowdfunding of Organic Farming

Project description

The proportion of organic farmland needs to be increased across Europe. The Green Deal aims for 25% of agricultural land to be farmed organically by 2030. However, there is still a long way to go, especially in the current situation where consumption of organic products is stagnating or even declining and subsidies are in many cases decreasing. There are many reasons for the development of organic farming to date, including economic, but also ethical (health and environmental) reasons.

This internship is part of a project called DIS-BIO. The overall aim of DIS-BIO is to identify the problems involved in adopting and maintaining organic farming by analysing the possibility of implementing different types of levers (social, economic, spatial and environmental). Crowdfunding is another voluntary way to support organic farming.

The aim of DIS-BIO work package six is to test the feasibility of implementing such crowdfunding mechanisms where consumers pay directly to farmers for using specific production methods. One outcome of this research will be an assessment of consumers' willingness to support the organic sector through voluntary donations. It will also evaluate different modalities for crowdfunding mechanisms and assess preferences for different organic production practices. Work package six has four subtasks:

1. To carry out a literature review and assessment of existing attempts to introduce crowdfunding mechanisms in agricultural production and nature conservation.
2. Develop a questionnaire including a discrete choice experiment and conduct a survey of a representative sample of consumers.
3. Estimate the determinants of willingness to contribute to organic farming using econometrics.
4. Propose feasible mechanisms for crowdfunding organic farming.

Internship goals

- Conduct a literature review of existing studies on crowdfunding of environmental projects and actions with a focus on food production and the application of surveys, discrete experiments and other economic evaluation methods.
- Evaluate existing crowdfunding platforms (internet documentation and potentially also some interviews with actors)
- Contribute to the design and implementation of a choice experiment, including questionnaire programming and focus group organisation.
- Data cleaning and econometric analysis of responses to the discrete choice experiment.
- Contribute to the interpretation of the results and the evaluation of the crowdfunding mechanism.

Requirements

Educational background: Economics or related educational background, e.g. environmental management.

Competencies:

- Knowledge of fundamental concepts in (environmental) economics.
- Good knowledge of statistical methods and econometrics.
- Knowledge about the ecosystem service concept
- Communication skills in both French and English.
- High interest in interdisciplinary research and excellent teamwork skills.

Duration

Six months.

Starting date

Between February 1st and April 1st, 2024.

Work location

Bureau for Economic Theory and Applications (BETA), Campus AgroParisTech Nancy or at BETA campus at the University of Strasbourg.

Supervision and environment

The work will be conducted in close collaboration with Jens Abildtrup (INRAE, UMR BETA) and Anne Stenger (INRAE, UMR BETA) within the framework of the DIS-BIO project.

Conditions

Gratuity amount: €4.05 per hour or a monthly bonus distributed over the entire six-month internship period, amounting to €581.18.

The trainee will have access to site infrastructure and services, including office space, a desktop computer, and software

The trainee will be encouraged to participate in the scientific activities of UMR BETA, such as seminars and conferences.

How to apply

To apply for this internship, please submit the following documents to jens.abildtrup@inrae.fr :

- Your CV.
- A cover letter explaining your interest in the internship and how your qualifications align with the project's goals.

Application Deadline: February 1, 2024.