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2021

Sustainable food in New Caledonia



An initiative led by the Pacific Food Lab cluster, the fortnight of local products aims to promote a beneficial and sustainable food model. In 2021, the agrifood companies and associations of the PFL continue their mission to increase the share of local products on the plates of Caledonians.

Marked by numerous workshops on Grande Terre and the Loyalty Islands, the fortnight of local products focuses on two major components. Indeed, the initiative brings together operators, processors, tourist and hospitality structures, in order to better promote sustainable local production. At the same time, the PFL is involved in school canteens and educates young people about the fight against food waste. In 2020, many producers could not sell their goods because of the health crisis, the fortnight of local products enabled them to serve 38,000 covers to students using 47 tonnes of local products.



The Pacific Food Lab, a sustainable food cluster

Founded in 2014, the work of the PFL consists of several innovative projects ranging from school canteens to discussion with different professional actors. "We have roughly between 15% and 18% food self-sufficiency, so concretely 15% to 18% of the products on the plate are local. There is a real room for progress" explains Charles Vuillod, manager of the PFL. "It's not just the Caledonian who has to buy more local products. There are also processors who must put a little more into their recipes, and producers who must increase their production capacities. That's why all these links have to move forward at the same time".

Sustainable agricultural production

Food self-sufficiency is becoming a major issue for the territory, whose coverage rate stands at 47.3% in 2020, a rate that has been stable over the past ten years, but which varies greatly between sectors. Agricultural production increased by 1.1% in 2020, thanks to the plant sector (+ 4.3%), while animal production fell by 2.9%. Cereal production has multiplied by 4 in 10 years and exceeds 10,000 tonnes. New Caledonia also exports essential oils (sandalwood, niaouli), products prized by the world of luxury cosmetics and perfumery. The Caledonian ecosystem, as a whole, must join forces to develop a real strategy to promote local production, generating more added economic, social and environmental value. '

