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The Caledonian agricultural world a land of traditions



A year filled with agricultural events; an economy boosted by traditional agriculture: New Caledonia is a land of traditions. Fruits, vegetables, coffee, fish, meat... The Caledonian islands are full of wealth and agriculture is above all a way of life.



A year punctuated by agricultural festivals

From March to December, agricultural events follow one another. The whole country celebrates the start of the harvest with the **Kanak Yam Festival in March**. Then, the festivities are concentrated in Nece, in the island of Maré, during the **Avocado Festival** which marks the end of the harvest in May, but also **the Deer and Shrimp Festival in Boulouparis**. Very popular events with a specific and lively atmosphere!

The rest of the year hosts many fairs: the **Thio Fair in July**, the **Islands Fair in September**, the **Vanilla Festival in Lifou in October**, the **Païta Beef Festival in November**, the **Taro Festival in Ouvéa in December** without forgetting the **Bourail Fair in August** and the **Agricultural and Craft Fair of Koumac in October**, where all the animal and plant productions of the territory are presented during several days animated by competitions, equestrian games, rodeo, and various dances.



Towards a self-sufficient territory

New Caledonia could achieve food self-sufficiency in many agricultural sectors. The Southern Province has notably put in place a Provincial Public Agricultural Policy (PPAP) initiated in 2014. Its objective is to establish a new investment support system, rescue public agricultural establishments and the passing of the country's law on rural leases. Major investments have been taking place throughout all the communities. Maize production is a good example because it has grown fourfold in 7 years, reaching 10,278 tones in 2018. Crops of wheat, soybeans, rice and sorghum have also been launched to achieve cereal diversification.

Although official statistics show that agriculture and fishing do not represent a large part of the gross domestic product of New Caledonia, they fail to take into account non-commercialized traditional agriculture, mainly exercised by tribes and with a market value estimated at 100 million euros.