

Translation 2 Translated

Bees, the Government(,) and the Future

EDITORIAL

For a new government/leadership/party that is making/makes a strong case for pushing/supporting/implementing/negotiating an "agro-ecological transition," allowing/permitting beet(root) growers to use neonicotinoid-coated seeds again is a bizarre choice/curious stance/odd position.* The Biodiversity Act of 2016 (had) banned these so-called "bee-killing" insecticides / these insecticides, dubbed "bee-killing", as of September 1st, 2018. On August 6th, the announcement made by the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Julien Denormandie, has satisfied producers. Their yields/profit and livelihood/incomes are threatened by the massive advancement/progression of beet yellowing*, a viral disease transmitted by an aphid whose "neonics" help to protect it.

This has incensed/angered/infuriated/ environmental advocates, who believe, based on scientific research, that this harmful product remains in the soil and contaminates later/subsequent crops and nearby wild flora/wild plants. The government argues that beets, which lack flowers, do not attract pollinators, that the exemption granted is temporary(,) and that any crops planted that are attractive to bees will not be allowed on the same soil/ will be restricted to different plots/soil.

The dilemma is emblematic/a prime example of the relationship between political decisions and environmental requirements: on one hand, a sector that symboliz(es) productive agriculture (supporting 45,000 jobs) is proud of France's position as the world's second largest producer of beet(root) sugar*. It also underlines the lack of an alternative to neonicotinoids for aphid control, and expresses concern about competition from other European countries where these pesticides have been implemented/allowed once more/once again/at present.

On the other hand, in the agricultural sector and the transport sector in particular, the government must educate people on the need for an accelerated transformation of production models and lifestyle choices. Otherwise this may end up ruining/destroying/damaging the (government's) credibility of its professions of green policies and its claim that it is preparing the country for future generations.*

* is at odds against the government's own position.

* beet yellowing's massive expansion/worsening

*is proud of France's number 2 position as a producer of beet(root) sugar

*its claim that it is looking towards the future