



## POLICY STATEMENT\*

THE UNION PAYSANNE aims to gather within an organized and representative collective force all those in favour of small-scale agriculture and food to counterbalance the trade union monopoly, the powerful agro-business lobby and the free-trade advocates in favour of an industrial model of agriculture.

THE UNION PAYSANNE promotes, on the one hand, food sovereignty-based agriculture aimed at providing healthy and diversified food to our population, while respecting nature, soil, animals, the environment and communities; on the other hand, our agriculture must be based on land occupancy, in order to maintain a viable countryside with numerous small farmers.

THE UNION PAYSANNE advocates for land tenure that supports and encourages:

1. **Human-scale farms**, autonomous, diversified, job creating and easily transferable.
2. **Processing and marketing on site at the farm** or within small local, regional or specialized businesses.
3. **Agricultural practices** that respect the soil, animals, the environment, and human health, for example:
  - Crop rotation
  - Pasture and outdoor access for animals
  - Solid manure management
  - Herd sizes limited by cropland capacity
  - Protection and conservation of agricultural biodiversity
  - Surface and groundwater, woodland and landscape protection
  - Collective watershed management
  - Feed self-sufficiency, when possible, and a list of authorized feeds and inputs, excluding bone meal, hormones and livestock growth antibiotics
  - The elimination of synthetic inputs, like GMOs

4. **Broadening of the definition of producer**, of agricultural programs and of production and marketing infrastructure (joint plans, quotas, regulatory control, farm credit, zoning, etc) to make way for new producers, young farmers, part-time producers, producer-processors, marketing on site at the farm, and local, diversified agriculture.
5. **Rural democracy**, re-empowering all rural citizens on land-use planning issues and having their say on local industrial projects through binding referenda.

THE UNION PAYSANNE also advocates for small-scale logging and fishing as a way of making sure the harvesting of these resources not only benefits large-scale export operators, but also allows local citizens to make their living within diversified, human-scale and family businesses. Coastal fisheries and peripheral logging must be earmarked for small-scale operations.

THE UNION PAYSANNE asserts that, in order to reach these goals, it is essential to reinstate freedom of association in the agricultural domain and to modify the law that allows the certification of only one union to represent farmers. This will allow the Union paysanne, a union established under the Professional Syndicates Act, to officially represent farmers and citizens concerned about small-scale farming and food production.

**From the Union paysanne's Policy Statement :** [www.unionpaysanne.com/policy-statement](http://www.unionpaysanne.com/policy-statement)  
**French version :** [www.unionpaysanne.com/union-paysanne/declaration-de-principe](http://www.unionpaysanne.com/union-paysanne/declaration-de-principe)

**\* The following represents that towards which the Union paysanne strives all the while believing we must accompany farmers at their level, without excluding them.**