

How do French poultry farmers navigate through constraints and opportunities of a structured sector during highly pathogenic avian influenza crises?



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Context

FRENCH POULTRY FARMING : A MAJOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

 **4th meat producer in Europe** in 2024 with 29% intended for export

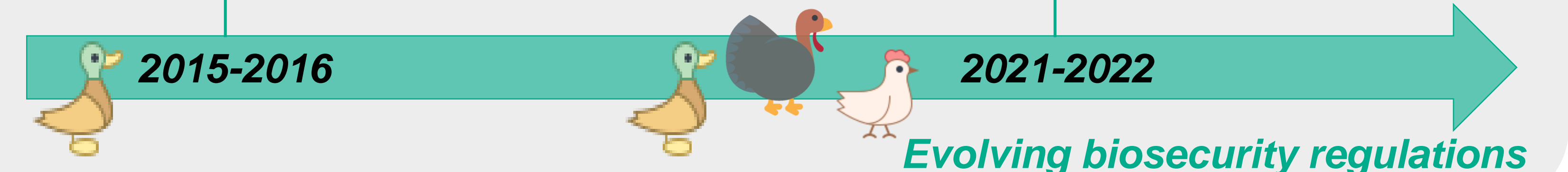
 **Diverse** species and production types

 **Independent** and **integrated** farms: contracts with Producer Organisations (POs) define ownership of animals and buildings

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) CRISES

1st HPAI outbreak in South-Western France

1st HPAI outbreak in Great-Western France



A NEED TO FOCUS ON GREAT-WESTERN FRANCE

Farmers' adaptations and the structural dynamics of the poultry sector in Great-Western France **during these crises** remain less studied compared to the South-West where **species and production types are different**

Objectives

Characterize the **HPAI crises** as lived by stakeholders in **Great-Western France**

Understand how **poultry farmers' practices** in **Great-Western France** fit into the **structured poultry sector** during HPAI crises

Assess the **consequences** of the crises on various stakeholders and the poultry sector

Methodology



A qualitative study using **semi-structured interviews** with farmers, POs, and local veterinary services from **Great-Western France**

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29 interviews



12 with Farmers



Diversity of species, production types (standard, free range..), and past HPAI experience (infected, depopulated...)

3 with Producer Organisations



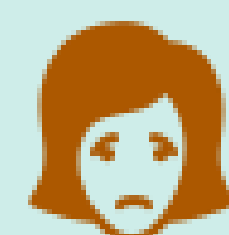
Diversity of production types (standard, free range...)

14 with Local Veterinary Services



Diversity of past HPAI experience

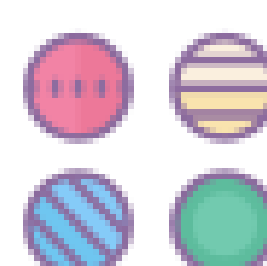
Unexpected crises associated with fear



Constraints and opportunities of the structured sector



Heterogeneity of consequences between farmers and between stakeholders



Preliminary results

A shared vision of a good biosecurity compliance in the Great-West: denial of potential crises

The arrival of the crises was associated with fear among all stakeholders

« Every morning, we were **scared** to open the doors. We had our 5 buildings full » Farmer

Constraints: economic pressure, market constraints, compliance requirements,...

« The **biggest challenge** is delivering a compliant product with the sector's requirements despite potential uncertainties (sanitary, climatic...) » PO

Opportunities: state financial support for vaccination and surveillance processes

« State financial support for vaccination and surveillance processes **is essential**. Meat duck production is facing a structural crisis, enhanced by the last epizootics. » PO

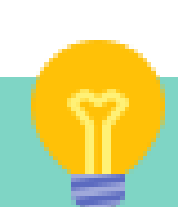
Diverse impacts: mental health, economic consequences, shutdown...

« We really thought the impact would be only limited to **economic aspects**. It turned out **it was much wider**, with **personal and professional** consequences. » Local Veterinary Services

« I had a burnout after that » Farmer

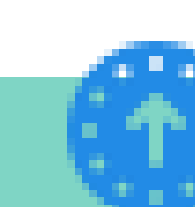
« Actually, farmers were more scared than us. Some said **they would stop their activity**, and some really did. » PO

Conclusion



Expected results

Provide valuable insights on how farmers navigate through the **structured poultry sector** with its **constraints** and **opportunities** in Great-Western France when facing HPAI crises



Perspectives

Contribute to a **multidisciplinary approach** in tackling the **management of the HPAI crises**: this work will provide information for the development and analysis of a **socio-economic and epidemiological HPAI model**