

Abbey Saint Pierre Farm

Agricultural R&D and living lab site

Mas-Grenier | Occitanie, France | European consortium partner

We offer a working, diversified organic farm for companies and research teams to co-design, test and demonstrate agricultural, agrifood and biotechnology solutions under everyday production conditions. We combine field access, practical farming knowledge and a food-processing setting, with scientific analysis and specialist engineering provided through project partnerships.

The farm at a glance

Land and systems	Approximately 12 hectares managed across a conservation orchard, market gardening, aromatic and medicinal plants, field crops and grassland. An apiary adds pollinator-related use cases.
Orchard and plants	26 fruit species and more than 100 varieties described in the farm inventory; diverse vegetables and aromatic plants, including saffron. Suitable for comparative observations across crops and microclimates.
Food processing	Operational 65 m ² workshop with autoclave, steam oven, drying equipment and cold storage. Fruit preparations, drying, batch records and direct farm sales provide practical post-harvest use cases.
Water and digital access	Drip irrigation, an historic spring and wells, fibre-optic connectivity and distributed mains power. Instrumentation, installation locations and data access are agreed for each trial.
Records and assurance	Parcel and crop records, input records and product traceability. ECOCERT organic plant-production certificate valid to 31 March 2027; HVE level 3 certificate valid to 15 June 2029.

Three practical offers to a consortium

Field validation. Host agreed trials of soil-health practices, microbial inputs, crop diversification, agroforestry, irrigation tools, sensors and robotics. We contribute routine observations, sampling under protocol and feedback on usability, labour and adoption.

Agrifood and circular processes. Provide produce, workshop-scale trials and batch traceability for drying, preservation, storage, packaging and by-product use. We help assess handling constraints, product quality and operating costs.

Demonstration and learning. Support field visits, practitioner workshops, trainee hosting and dissemination of results. Residential activities can be arranged with the separate abbey estate operator.

Trial suitability and any product-specific requirements are agreed before work starts.

Research collaboration and experience

Registered in 2015, Abbey Saint Pierre brings direct experience of diversified farming, crop and input traceability, seasonal post-harvest handling and small-batch food production. Its value to a research team is the ability to test whether an innovation works within the time, cost and operating constraints of a small commercial holding.

Project development and specialist partnerships

GRAPE-UP. The farm coordinated the proposal submitted to GRAPPA cut-off 2 in October 2026 with Industry & Project Engineering (IPE, Slovakia). The proposal addresses grape-pomace valorisation, with the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra as scientific subcontractor.

Food science and engineering. Collaboration developed with the food-science team at Nitra connects farm use cases with composition, microbiology and stability work. IPE contributes process-engineering and integration expertise.

Regional processing interface. The farm's own workshop supports preparation and application trials; specialist extraction and distillation equipment are accessed externally.

Priority collaboration themes

Soils and biotech	Biofertilisers and microbial inoculants; soil health, water retention and nutrient-use efficiency. Priority routes: Mission Soil SOIL-05 and FARM2FORK-07.
Agroecology	Diversified cropping, agroforestry, genetic resources, farmland biodiversity and restoration. Priority routes: NATURE-02-02, SOIL-03, FARM2FORK-05 and BIODIV-08/09.
Digital agriculture	Irrigation decisions, field sensing and farmer-centred AI advice. Priority routes: FARM2FORK-01 and GOVERNANCE-04.
Food and skills	Post-harvest quality, processing and residue valorisation; practical agricultural learning. Routes: FutureFoodS, relevant bioeconomy calls, Erasmus+ and MSCA partnerships.

How we work

We seek a funded pilot-site, end-user or demonstration role with clear tasks and deliverables. With the scientific lead, we agree the question, trial plots, season, controls, measurements, sampling, equipment, staff time and budget. We also agree data access, confidentiality, publication, safety and continuity before installation. Multisite replication and specialist analyses are organised with research partners.

We provide a real-life site within a wider living lab partnership. Scientific leadership, analytical laboratories and controlled-environment facilities are supplied by the consortium. Access to shared estate venues is agreed separately with their operator.

Contact for partnerships

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