



## Difficulties and perspectives of dairy farmers and cheesemakers in the French Midi-Pyrenees and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes.

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A lot of efforts and sacrifices are made by farmers and cheesemakers to produce good quality milk and cheese.

## Objective

The present study aims to understand the difficulties encountered by French dairy farmers and/or cheesemakers and their perspectives.

# Methodology

Investigation was carried out from July 16 to August 11, 2023 in Aveyron in the Midi-Pyrenees region, South West France and in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, South-Eastern France.



# Altitudes

1100 m

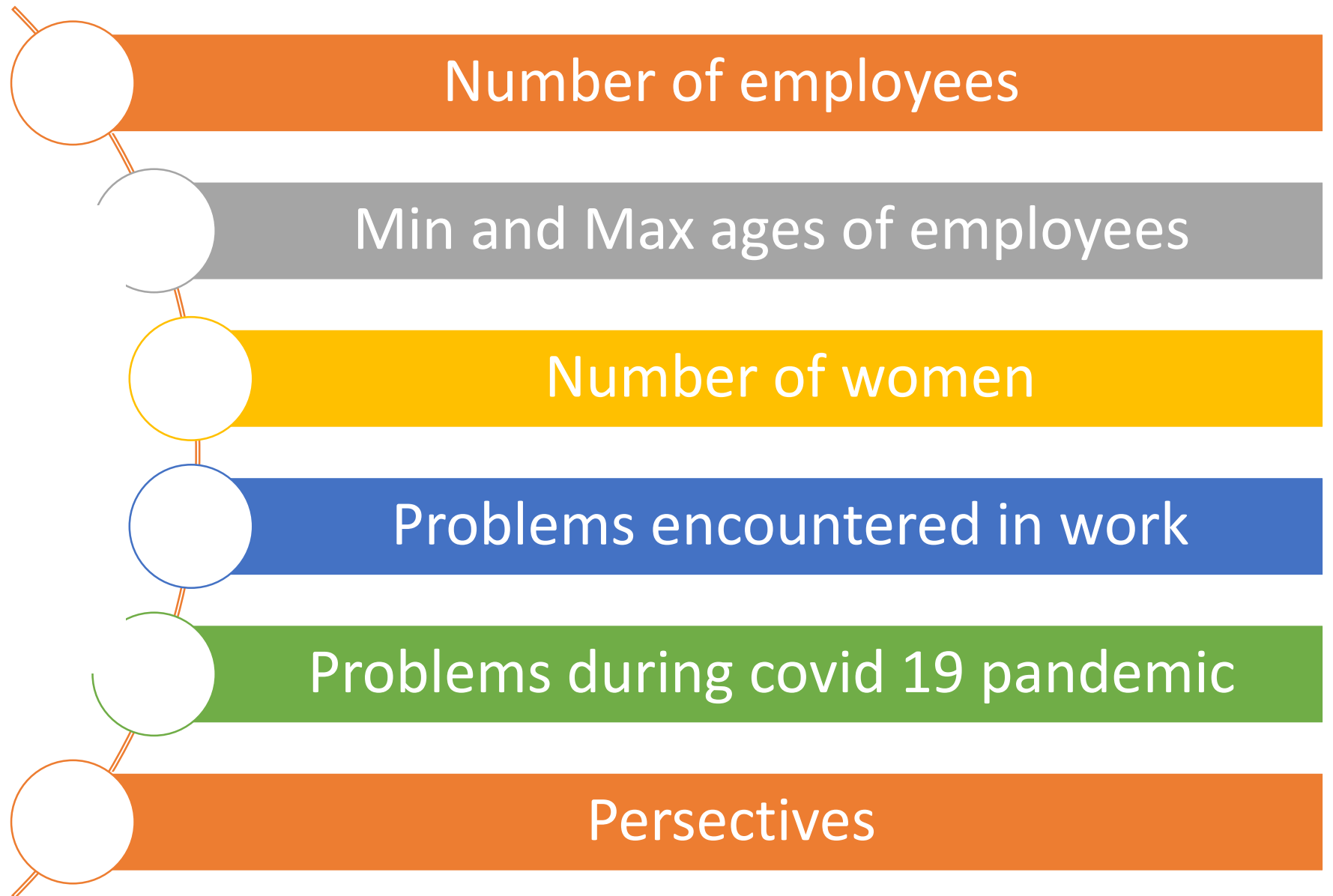


350 m



- Twenty French dairy farmers and/or cheesemakers were interviewed face to face.





## Statistical analysis

- Mean  $\pm$  SD or frequencies of the different variables are calculated
- SPSS package program, version 20
- Interpretation and analysis the data.





# Results

Farmers	Farmers and cheesemakers	Cheesemakers
40%	45%	15%

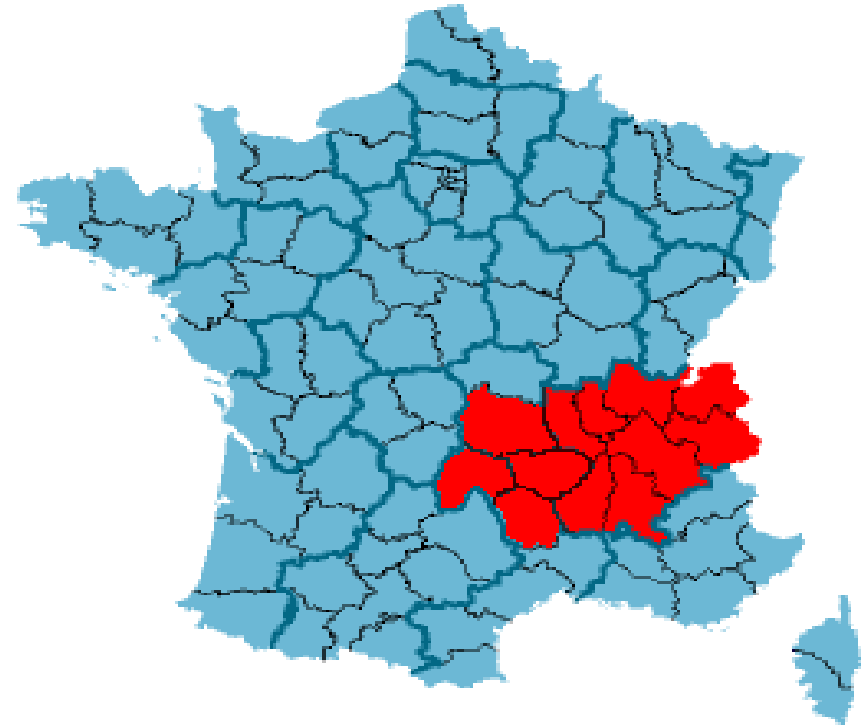


# Frequency of farmers and cheesemakers visited according to region

**Aveyron: 65 %**



**Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes: 35%**



# Employees number and age of farmers and cheesemakers (Mean $\pm$ SD)

<b>Number of employees</b>	3.45 $\pm$ 3.3
<b>Minimum and Maximum employee ages (years)</b>	32.00 $\pm$ 10.16 to 52.25 $\pm$ 10.52

# Number of women



More than half (55%)  
of the the visited  
farms and cheese  
factories



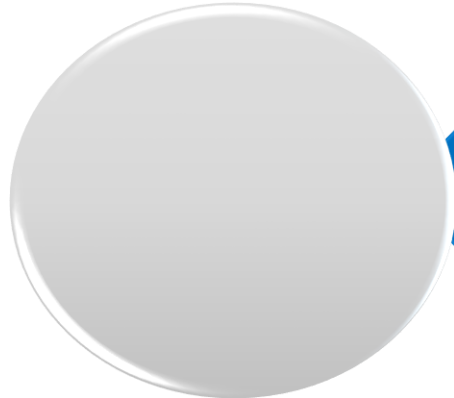
There is a female  
predominance among  
the staff ( $\geq 50\%$ ).



# Problems encountered in work



85%: An excessive workload



65%: Few vacations/per  
year

## The women farmers and/or cheesemakers declared:

- ✓ They have difficulty taking care of their babies.
- ✓ They cannot accompany their children to school.
- ✓ The children do not even have vacations.

44% of dairy farmers

- Price of milk is not sufficient in relation to the efforts made and the financial costs of the farms

20% of dairy farmers and cheesemakers

- European hygiene standards and bureaucratic burdens

20% of dairy farmers and cheesemakers

- Lack of qualified employees

## Animal diseases rare

- More than half (56%) of the farms visited

## Anxiety

- About urbanization (19%)
- Presence of wolves in the region (6%)

## Lack of consideration of farmers' work

- One third of farmers (31%) declared:
- Their work is not considered by some agricultural managers
- They are always criticized by environmental defenders



# During covid 19 pandemic

## During confinement



**33 %** of dairy farms and cheesemakers found some difficulties:

- Isolation
- Imposing health prevention for employees
- A large stock of cheeses in the cellars

**67%** continued to work without any problems

## After confinement



- All the cheesemakers (100%) declared that they have a better sale of cheese and exhaustion of all the stock never seen until now.
- People avoid going to supermarkets and they have settled in the companions during this period and buy directly from the farms or cheese factories

# Perspectives

- 30% → reduction in workload (delegating other people to the making and selling of cheeses or automating the farm).
- 70% → wish the stability in production and not invest to expand farms or cheese factories, while 30 % want to diversify in production (transforming all of the farm's milk into cheeses and yogurt, developing agricultural tourism...).
- 30% → expressed their wish that one of their children take over the farm and/or the cheese factory.

# Conclusion

Agriculture managers must find a strategy to reduce the workload of farmers and/or cheesemakers, increase their remuneration and/or offer financial assistance.

Also, environmental defenders must stop harassing dairy farmers as they are contributing to food security in the world and offer us a tasty cheese.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

