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Vine and wine residues management: practices and new routes of valorisation in the French Languedoc Roussillon region

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INTRODUCTION

In the vine and wine production sector, huge amounts of waste and by-products are generated each year in France: 1.6 million tons of wood pruning, 850 000 tons of grape marc, 1.5 million hectolitres of wine lees and wastewater.

Since one century, French distilleries valorised the wine by-products.

Since the French decree n° 2014-903 winemakers are authorized to valorise by themselves their by-products through methanization or spreading.

The Languedoc Roussillon region is the most important French area for the vine and wine industry as regards of volume produced.
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study aims to:

- Provide a clear picture of the current situation as regard the nature of wastes generating by the vine and wine sector and collecting all relevant information to understand why a waste management system is preferred among all the other existing valorization routes

- Evaluate the new technologies acceptance and potential development
Different stakeholders have been interviewed through face-to-face interviews in July and August 2018.

**Two focuses:**

1/ Interviews of 12 winemakers with semi-directive discussion, transcribed and analysed with a thematic analysis.

2/ Surveys of 6 winemakers, 2 distilleries and 3 public decision-makers, analysed with NoAWVote.

Typology and repartition of interviewees in the Languedoc Roussillon.
RESULTS

Vineyard
- Mulched and spread in vineyard or burnt
- Vine shoots
- Grape stalks
- Vine roots

Winery
- Grape pomace
- Grape stalks
- Wine lees
- Wastewater

Distillery
- De-oiling
- Methanization
  - Potable alcohol
  - Industrial alcohol
  - Grape seed oil
  - Grape pulp
  - Biogas
  - Digestate
  - Tartric acid
  - Tannins, anthocyanins and polyphenols
1- Current valorisation routes

Current prefered valorisation routes: **distilleries and fertilization**

Choice criteria ranked by wineries:
  1. Low economic-cost
  2. Low environmental impact
  3. Ease of use / convenience

For the policy-makers the main criteria is the low environmental impact.
2- Management of wine by-products

Collection logistics of grape pomace and wine lees is organised by distilleries.

Globally satisfied of this long term commercial relationship

Advantages mentioned:
- Compliance with legal requirements
- Low cost of the valorisation pathway

Constraints mentioned:
- Producers of small quantity have to organise the transportation
- Grape pomace separation

Almost no use of the oenological products made by distilleries.
There is no specific collection and post-treatment proposed to vine growers.

Three type of vine by-products:

- **Vine shoots**: crushed and left in the vineyard, or burnt
- **Vine roots**: firewood or wood barbecue
- **Grape stalks**: spread in the vineyard

Different options are possible for wastewater treatment but none of these seems to satisfy them because of the cost, labour time and administrative complexity.
4- Preferences of stakeholders as regard new valorisation routes

![Graph showing preferences for NoAW routes: Biofertilizers, Biomaterials, Bioenergy, Biorefinery, Other.](image-url)
5- Expected benefits and potential obstacles

**Expected Benefits - Vine/Winery Waste**
- Low environmental impact: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 1, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 5
- Low economic cost: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 2, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 3
- Ease of use: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 3, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 4
- None of the above reasons: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 4, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 5
- Valorization routes near the structure: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 6, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 7
- Government tax benefits: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 7, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 8
- Respect for tradition: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 8, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 9
- Need for heat/energy on-site: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 2, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 3
- CRS benefits: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 6, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 8

**Potential Obstacles - Vine/Winery Wastes**
- Cost: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 1, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 2
- Authorisations difficulty: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 4, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 3
- Other: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 6, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 4
- Too low amount of waste: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 4, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 5
- High maintenance costs: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 5, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 6
- Sorting: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 6, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 5
- Too bad quality of the...: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 7, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 1
- Difficulties to get founds: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 6, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 4
- Collection: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 8, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 4
- No qualified operators: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 9, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 3
- Missing infrastructure: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 10, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 2
- No market: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 11, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 6
- High depreciation costs: Borda Rank - Other stakeholders: 12, Borda rank-Wineries & converters: 6
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The results of this study not only highlight the crucial role of distillery in the wine by-products management and for the circularity of the wine sector, but also enhance:

(1) The winemakers disempowering and lack of information regarding the environmental impact of winemaking
(2) The distillery vulnerability because of their business model based on public subsidies (decrease of processing aid)
(3) The challenge to attain a critical size motivated by the economic performance but which implied a lower environmental performance due to transport and logistics.