

# RENEWED CONFIDENCE FOR ACTIVITIES AIMED AT FARMERS AND WINEGROWERS

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The Luxembourg Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Consumer Protection is renewing its support for the agriculture, viticulture and consumer protection activities carried out by the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology.

The Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Consumer Protection recently signed a framework agreement setting out guidelines for LIST's activities for the years to come and the conditions whereby the Ministry awards financial contributions to enable LIST to deliver them effectively.

With this agreement, the Ministry has committed to continue to support LIST financially so that its researchers can carry out both the assignments and the research and services it asks LIST to provide, and so that LIST can deliver its research programmes and projects in the fields of agriculture, viticulture and consumer protection.

### **Tasked by government**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Consumer Protection leverages the expertise and skills developed by LIST's "Environmental Research and Innovation" department, which is striving to solve the major environmental challenges facing society today.

The Ministry will task LIST with a range of consultancy and technical support assignments, both public and private, focusing in particular on farms and vineyards. LIST will help farms, government agencies (notably the Administration des Services Techniques de l'Agriculture (ASTA) and the Institut Viti-Vinicole (IVV)), lawmakers and trade bodies to define, evaluate and implement agricultural and environmental policies.

LIST's researchers will also be carrying out research and services on behalf of

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the Ministry, such as analysing the biogas yield from the varieties of maize tested in ASTA's trial fields, implementing and managing a database of the properties of agricultural soils in Luxembourg, examining the biodiversity of these soils, and providing training in the use of pesticides.

### **Support for research activities**

Thanks to this agreement, LIST can also count on the Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Consumer Protection's financial backing to deliver its research programmes and projects. LIST is already very active in this area, taking part in numerous projects.

For instance, its researchers are seeking to implement a warning and advisory platform for the main fungal diseases and general crop pests in Luxembourg, to study the reasons why bees are dying, to evaluate non-chemical methods of eliminating or delaying fungal epidemics affecting vines, to reduce the use of pesticides in vineyards, and to analyse the impact of climate change on viticulture and the typical features of PDO wines from the "Moselle Luxembourgeoise" region.

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