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French approaches for Empowering Women and Youth in the Agriculture and Food Systems

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G7 International Forum

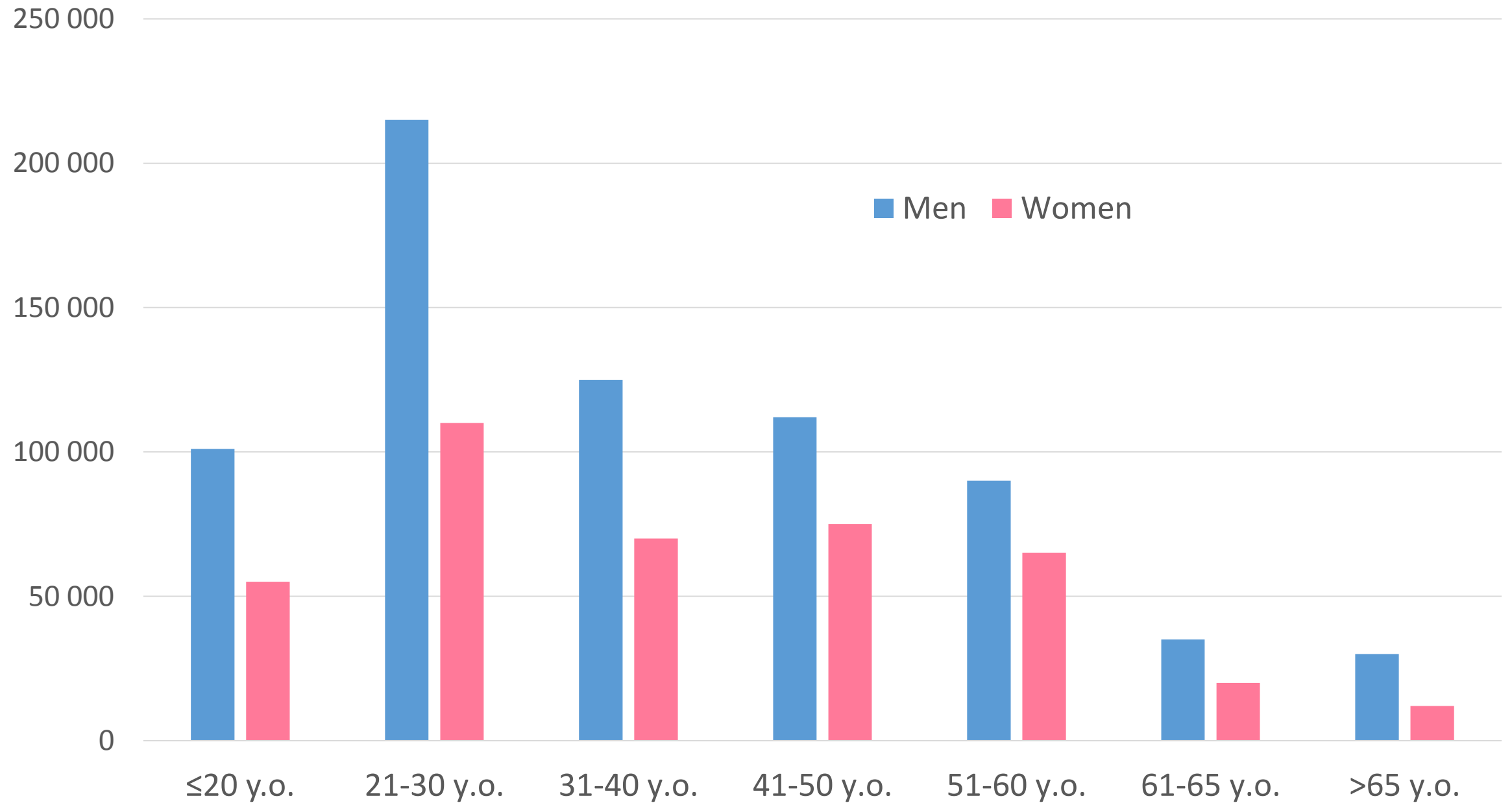
12 December, 2016

Mita Conference Hall, Minato-ku, Tokyo

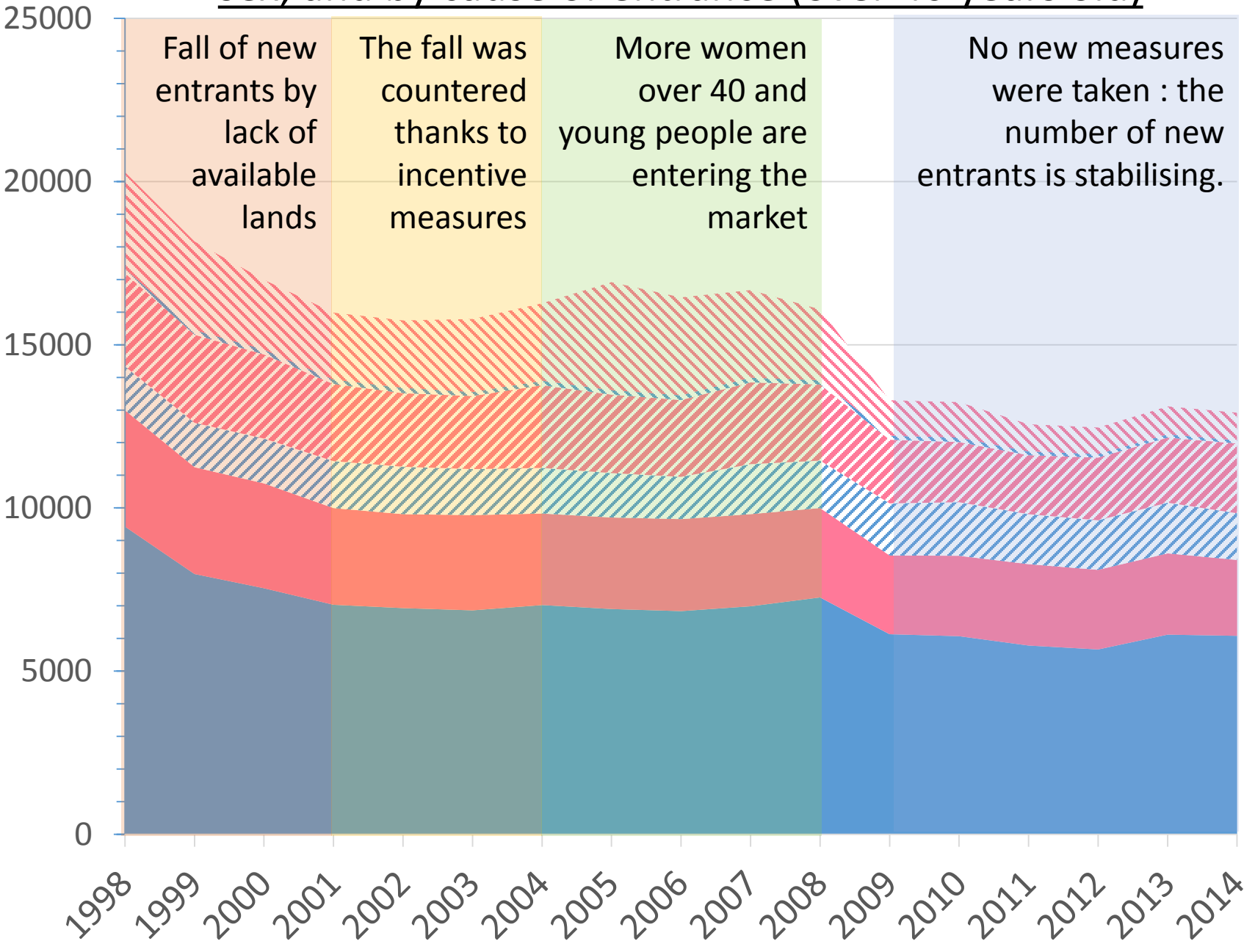
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Number of farmers, by age class and by sex



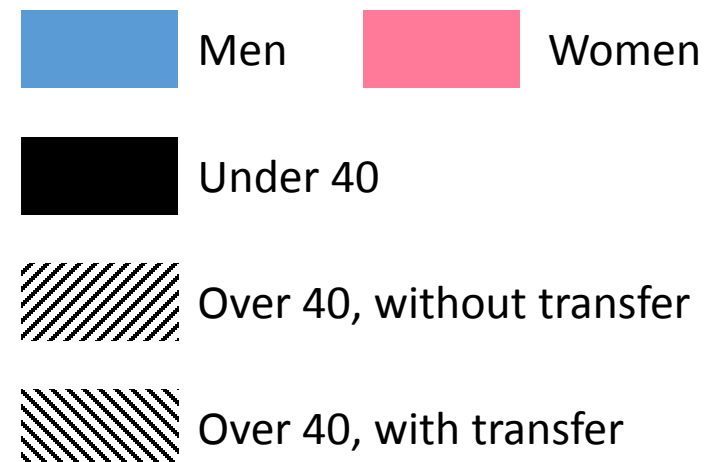
New entrants, by age (under or over 40 years old), by sex, and by cause of entrance (over 40 years old)



2001-2004 : the financial help was increased, and enabled for older (up to 40 years old) and multi-active agricultural workers.

2004-2008 : new financial help was created for early retirees, leading more women and young workers to manage the newly available lands.

Conclusion : freeing lands is the most effective way to foster the founding of new farms.



More help for early
retirees

New
agricultural
lands become
available

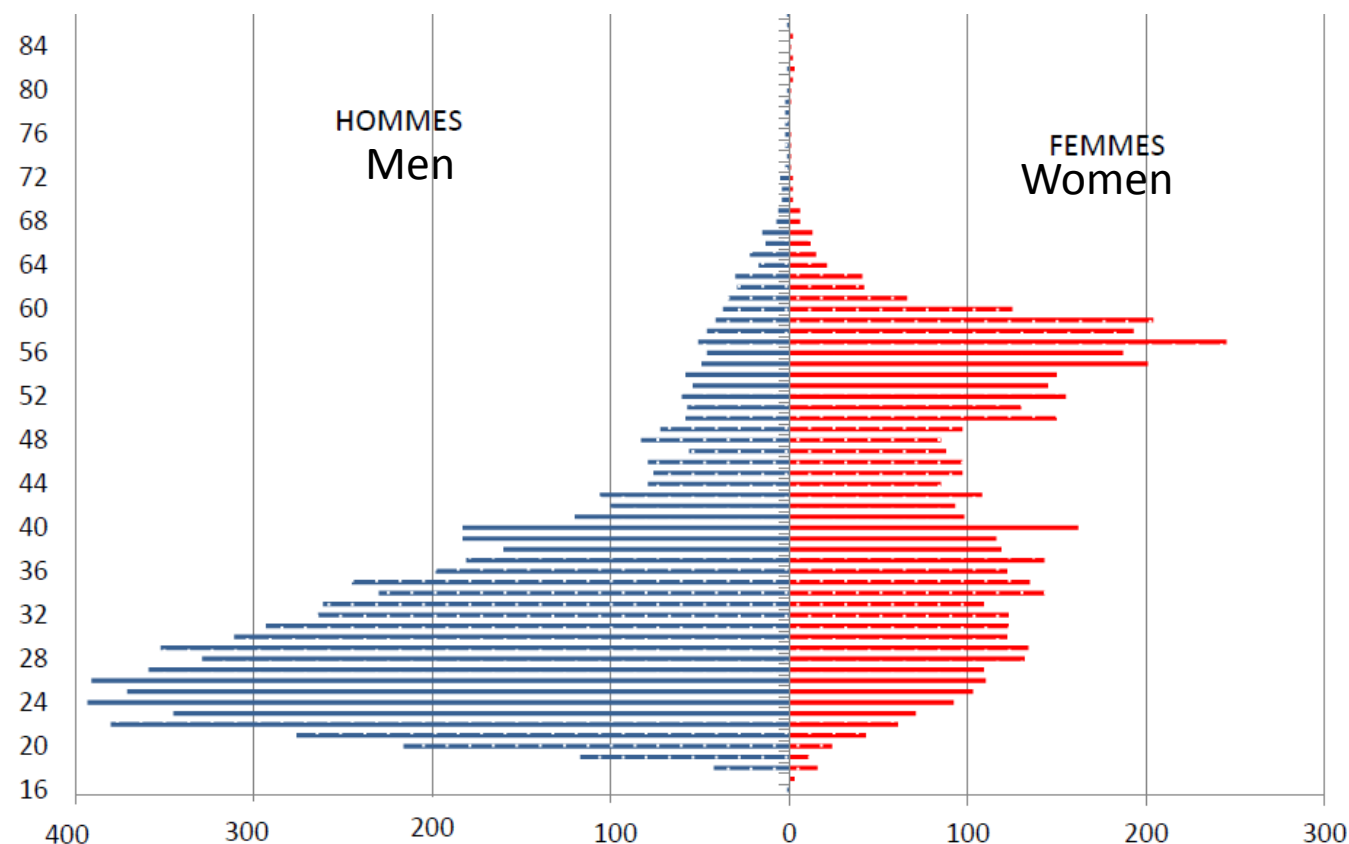
More income
security

- Both spouses can take part in the same company
- Multi-active agricultural workers can keep their financial help

More women and young
people become agricultural
workers

What about women ?

- Their part amongst the new entrants has been steady since 2010 : around 37%, but...
- Their number is unevenly spread : they make up only 28% of the entrants under 40 years old, but 60% of those over 40 years old (without transfer from spouse only).



1850

- Girls' schools are mandatory in towns above 800 inhabitants.

1880

- Girls' high schools are established.

1919

- First female baccalauréat (higher education graduation)

1945

- Women get the right to vote and open a bank account.

1972

- « Same work same salary » law.

1975

- Sex diversity is mandatory in public education (at least 40% of each sex).

2011

- Measures were taken for sex diversity in boards of directors.

2012

- A new law fosters the presence of women among France's public executives.

2014

- A comprehensive law on equality (personal, economic, political) was passed.

A glimpse of the policies, successes and difficulties regarding sex equality in French agriculture

The MAAF policies

The French Ministry of Agriculture has reached parity amongst its executives, and has deployed various measures to promote it in agriculture :

- More help for company creators
- Improvement of maternity replacement
- Diversification of installations in rural areas
- Diversity among agricultural bodies

Women in agriculture

Today, 52% of agriculture students are girls.

Women in agriculture tend to manage generic farms (milk, cereals, industrial ingredients, horse) but also to develop multi-functionality (short circuits, diversification, agro-tourism...).

25% of heads of farms are women, but on average their lands are 30% smaller, and their income inferior.

Remaining difficulties

- Agriculture is still often a second choice orientation for women
- It is harder for women to get to own lands or to get an internship as a part of their formation
- Women tend to be isolated in the rural world
- Women also have to cope with their life as a worker and as a mother, and can seldom enjoy all their maternity leave



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Thank you for your attention !

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