

SCEA Pallard

Farm

Owners: Mr. and Mrs Christian (aged 63) and Bernadette PALLARD and their son Patrice (aged 34)

Labor team: 5 including 1 son, 1 daughter and 1 daughter-in-law.

Geographical location: commune of Razac de Saussignac in the Dordogne valley

Surface: 80 ha including 61.5 of prune trees; the remainder is fallow or orchard exterior areas.
(the Pallard family also farms 55 ha of vines through another company)



History:

In 1969 settlement of Christian and Bernadette on a wine farm;

The farm diversifies in 1992 with the settlement of a son and the resumption of a prune farm whose old orchards are gradually replaced.

In 2004, 15 ha of orchard are converted into organic farming. In 2008 the remainder of the orchard is converted.



Orchard

Age: 3 to 10

Vegetable material: 707 on Jaspi rootstock

Density: 1 000 trees/ha (5 m x 2 m)

Grass between rows.

Specific tools

Pruning basket spanning the row, protection on top and sides to protect workers against bad weather.

Harvesting machine: over-the-row developed by Somaref.

Irrigation: micro-jets mainly supplied through a contract with an irrigation association.



Dehydration

Part of the plums is dried by the co-operative Uniprune with traditional tunnel dehydrators.

The other part is dried on the farm by 5 continuous belt dehydrators having a daily capacity of 10 and 20 tons of fresh. 5 waiting belts of 10 tons facilitate the night-work.

Marketing

Through France Prune co-operative.

EARL de Saint Laca



Farm

Owner: Dominique BOTTEON, age 49, 3 children.

Workforce: 2 permanent employees and seasonal workers for drying and pruning.

Geographical location: 2 locations 10 km away: Lévignac de Guyenne and Monteton.

Surface: 80 ha including 45 ha prune trees, 8 ha hazelnut trees and 20 ha cereals (wheat and sunflower).

History: settlement of Dominique in 1978 on 14 ha (prunes and cereals); associated with his parents from 1991 to 2002.

The orchard

Surface: 45 ha of which 35 are bearing (ages 7 to 50+) and 10 ha of young trees.

Vegetable material: 707 primarily but also 652 and 303 on Myrobalan and GF 8-1.

Density: 238 trees/ha (7 m x 6 m); 6 ha young trees planted in axis with a density of 417t/ha.

Specific tools

Pruning: motorized nacelle 4 positions + auxiliary tractor-drawn nacelle.

Harvesting: 2 Somaref half-umbrellas and 2 Agrimeca and Monchiero ground-pickers.

Irrigation: micro-jets mainly thanks to a hill lake under joint ownership and under contract with an association.



Dehydration

Individual station with 6 parallel tunnels of a capacity of 10 tons of green plums a day and tunnel.

Automatic tray feeder/scrapper

The station is supplied by trailer-buckets; a truck is used for the Monteton orchards.



Reference figures

Yield: 5 t/ha i.e. a harvest of 200 T dried prunes.

Average size count ranging between 50 and 54.

Marketing to various independent packers through Syprusi Organization of Producers.