

INSTITUT PASCAL (UMR6602 UCA/CNRS) – Group M3G/MRSI.

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Title of the thesis subject

Building a local supply of raw materials for the French textile industry (Half scholarship in connection with ADEME funding).

Co-financiers

- ADEME 2023 thesis programmes under the themes "Preservation and restoration of environments and resources in a context of climate change", "Circular economy with a view to resilience", "Non-food valorisation of biomass and biosourced products" and "Assessment of the vulnerability of the industry (prospective on adaptation strategies, climate risks, supply...)". This is an ongoing funding request.
- The Compagnie Nationale du Rhône has undertaken to finance the Aura Chanvre pilot site by participating in the remuneration of farmers and cultivation equipment for an amount of 160,000 euros.
- The Rhone-Mediterranean-Corsica Water Agency has already financed the pre-study phase of the cultivation and industrialization of Aura Chanvre in 2022 with the objective of protecting priority catchment areas.

Summary of the thesis topic

The relocation of the textile industry in Western Europe has emerged as a central and strategic issue during the health crisis. If this industry is undergoing certain evolutions concerning the relocation of the industrial tools from spinning to clothing, it is a different story if we look at the production of raw materials. Moreover, the supply models for these materials are particularly centralised and leave little room for alternative, territorialised supply models.

The aim of this research work is therefore to examine and implement the conditions for achieving an ecological transition in the French textile industry through the development of local and territorial sourcing. The sectors concerned by this thesis are hemp and wool, with hemp presenting the interests of being low water consumption, needing no pesticides and very beneficial in crop rotation. There is also a strong demand from the textile and construction industries.

The deliverables will be a diagnosis of the current state of the sector, a mapping of the "agri-textile" basins, the identification of the socio-technical obstacles to the transition of the French textile industry and the identification of the action levers necessary for the re-establishment of local sectors or the spin-off of existing sectors.