

# CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

OF THE AGRICULTURAL

& FOOD TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES



**ACTIA**



**MINISTÈRE  
DE L'AGRICULTURE  
ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ  
ALIMENTAIRE**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

**JUNE 2022**

## Preamble

*This charter, which is part of our qualification as a Technical Institute awarded by the French Ministry of Agriculture, reflects our commitment to reinforcing the level of trust placed in us by the public authorities and professionals who call on us to carry out our research and expertise activities of public interest, by explaining our approach. At the same time it provides a reassuring frame of reference for our employees and our project partners in carrying out their activities. This first version will be progressively improved and accompanied by implementation and monitoring tools.*

*Humanity is faced with global challenges (environmental, economic and social). The work of the agricultural and agro-industrial technical institutes is deliberately geared towards improving and accompanying change in sustainable agricultural and agri-food systems at different scales/levels. To meet these challenges, our activities are underpinned by a scientific approach that guarantees the objectivity and robustness of our results, in a constructive dialogue between the general interest, the collective interests of our sector and the specific interests of each of our stakeholders.*

*We assume that our contribution is based on the current state of knowledge, and we are aware of the legitimacy of a diversity of points of view on the issues we deal with.*

*We have chosen five values to guide our actions and around which we build our ethical and deontological commitments:*

- 1 A SENSE OF COMMUNITY**
- 2 PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY**
- 3 A HIGH LEVEL OF COMPETENCE**
- 4 INNOVATION AT THE SERVICE OF OUR STAKEHOLDERS**
- 5 COMMITMENT AT THE HEART OF OUR SECTORS**

### **1 A sense of community**

Because the Technical Institutes place a sense of community at the heart of their professional practices:

- ≡ We listen to the needs and viewpoints of the stakeholders in our sectors of activity.
- ≡ We build projects in partnership to develop, capitalize on and share knowledge and operational knowledge.
- ≡ We conduct our work in a spirit of responsibility, with a concern for the general interest.
- ≡ We accompany the stakeholders through dialogue and with respect to their independence to appropriate our results and decisions.

## 2 Professional and scientific integrity

Since Technical Institutes are applied research organisations, which fulfil, in particular missions of general interest and must therefore be trustworthy:

- ≡ We produce reliable knowledge and references by rigorously and transparently using robust technical and scientific methods, taking into account available and objective data.
- ≡ We analyse the results of our work with a critical mind, with a concern for accuracy and impartiality towards our stakeholders.
- ≡ We honestly inform our clients of all the results of our studies, regardless of the conclusions reached.
- ≡ Within the framework of our projects, we respect the rules of confidentiality defined with our public or private clients.

## 3 A high level of competence

Since the Technical Institutes guarantee and maintain a high level of competence in meeting the scientific and technical needs of clients in their sectors and professional fields:

- ≡ Our teams of researchers, engineers and technicians rely on collective intelligence.
- ≡ We take an active part in regional, national, European and international partnership research projects, so that we can learn from outside and deliver the most effective solutions to our stakeholders.
- ≡ We are constantly reinforcing these skills through our strategy of monitoring, recruitment and ongoing training in line with the requirements of our Technical Institute qualification.
- ≡ We ensure that we have the resources and equipment - cutting-edge if necessary - required to the performance of our work.

## 4 Innovation at the service of our stakeholders

Since the Technical Institutes aim to develop useful innovations, that can be used and enjoyed by the players in their sectors:

- ≡ We cultivate open-mindedness and creativity in our teams, and encourage it through appropriate methods.
- ≡ We are enriching our collective innovation processes by actively listening to our stakeholders, as key partners in our work.
- ≡ We stimulate and support technical, organisational and social change, in a spirit of sharing, and accelerating the transition to sustainable agricultural and agri-food systems.

## 5 Commitment at the heart of our sectors

Since the commitment of the Technical Institutes resolutely lies at the heart of professional sectors:

- Our field of activity is a real passion, to which we devote the best of our energy and expertise.
- We are persistent and open-minded in our search for solutions to the questions we are asked.
- We have a sense of belonging to a professional project community that is constantly striving to improve its relevance. We recognise the need for it in the general interest, and therefore its legitimacy.

### DEFINITIONS ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP

**ETHICS:** PHILOSOPHICAL DISCIPLINE STUDYING THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR DECISIONS AND ACTIONS.

**FUNDAMENTAL VALUES:** PRINCIPLES WHICH, FOR EVERYONE, FORM THE BASIS OF THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.

**DEONTOLOGY:** A SET OF PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION THAT ARE ACCEPTED AS FAIR, IN PROFESSIONAL CONTEXT AND IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW.

**STAKEHOLDERS:** ALL THOSE INVOLVED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE ORGANISATION. THESE INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, SUPPLIERS, CUSTOMERS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS (EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS).

### REFERENCES

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