

Cheminade Food Policy: Organize the Markets vs. Predatory Globalization

April 16—The food and agriculture policy plank in the campaign [program](#) of Jacques Cheminade for President of France, released Jan. 31 this year—“The World Against the City and Wall Street—a Grand Platform for Tomorrow”—stands as an international policy guidance for emergency and longterm action. The ten-page chapter, “Agriculture: Organize the Markets Against Predatory Globalization,” begins by stressing that it is the dead monetarist system itself which must be changed; and secondly, that national food sovereignty and the principle of production must be restored. The key elements of these two thrusts are presented below, in summary translation and paraphrase.

France, the foremost food-producing nation of the European Union, and a top-rank exporter to world markets, is undergoing the destruction of its varied farm sectors, as a result of intensifying global cartelization, speculative price volatility, and EU/greenie dictates. Dozens of the nearly 600 mayors who backed Cheminade’s candidacy—the endorsement of 500 elected officials is a prerequisite for ballot status in the Presidential election—are from French farm regions.

Worldwide, farm leaders are resisting the undermining of agriculture, but they need the strategic overview of who and what the enemy is, and how to change the system. Without that, there can be only fruitless, issue-by-issue attempts to make “better” a situation bound to get worse. For example, the largest farmer organization in France, the French National Federation of Farmers’ Unions (FNSEA), an umbrella organization representing 20,000 local agriculture unions and 22 regional federations, is focussing at present on reforming taxation, farm management, and the future of the EU CAP, Common Agriculture Policy.

In the United States, a sister organization to FNSEA, the National Farmers Union (NFU), backs the system-changing policy of restoring the Glass-Steagall law. The NFU, representing farmers and ranchers across 33 states, has long opposed rampant commodity speculation and cartelization. But this

week, in their “Fly-In” to Washington, to lobby Congress, NFU activists are focussed instead on a new commodity-marketing proposal, the Market-Driven Inventory System (MDIS), intended to maintain supplies and fair prices to farmers, cut down price volatility, and reduce Federal expenditures, but all the while, stay within the pre-existing monetarist system, now in breakdown—a strategy that is foredoomed.

In Argentina, Australia, Canada, Mexico, and many other nations, there are well-motivated, but limited efforts by farm leaders. Many farm groups came together a year ago to form a new international effort, to address worldwide food-security concerns. The new World Farmers Organization will have its first conference in June in Rome, where it is now headquartered. Formed March 29, 2011, in Brussels, the WFO has as its first director, Robert Carlson, the NFU president of North Dakota.

Cheminade’s leadership, alongside that of the La-Rouche Political Action Committee’s drive in the United States, is a call to action for farm leaders to demand the critical measures to end all deadly casino and financial bailout practices imposed to serve private globalist networks, and shift completely to economic science.



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The Cahors Chateau vineyard in France. Cheminade wants to restore the right of French farmers to make a decent living from their produce.

On March 29, Cheminade addressed the 66th Congress of the FNSEA, in Montpellier, standing out among the other six Presidential candidates, for his tough policy intervention. As noted by the press, Cheminade was repeatedly interrupted by applause, and warmly applauded at the end.

A Synopsis of Cheminade's Policy

In France today, we have 317,000 professional farms, half of what we had 20 years ago, employing about 750,000 people full-time. French farmers have the impression that they have become welfare recipients who are unfairly treated for their hard work.

Not only is international food production competition untenable because of adulterated products (from New Zealand powdered milk, Argentinean or Chilean wines), but the French situation has also been hit by competition from other European producers, notably because of legal discrepancies in work-time and income among the different countries of the European Union, and within the Eurozone itself. At the same time, the volatility of prices is becoming more and more intolerable. In order to survive under such conditions, French farmers have to adopt intensive forms of production at cheaper prices, and to follow the methods prescribed by agricultural officials who are polluting the environment and who should be in the dock of the accused themselves!

French farmers realize more and more that the globalist "European model" is aimed at eliminating the family farm and replacing it with large agribusiness cartels, tied to international banks, and whose aim is not to feed the populations of the world, but to profiteer.

I. Change the System

We must change the current arbitrary and unjust system at all levels and return to a policy which does not penalize producers, but instead, eliminates hunger in the world, and increases the nutritional quality of food in the advanced sector countries.

The time has come to redefine the kind of agriculture that is suitable for France, and within the framework of a new, just international and European economic order. This means that we must return to a system of organized markets, oriented to the interests of all, on a planet where food requirements far exceed what is currently being produced. Mankind requires, at the very least, a doubling of the production of vegetables.

Aside from water and energy, agriculture must become the great challenge of the 21st Century. By 2050, in order to properly feed between 9 and 10 billion people, all of the arable land and all of the food producers of the world will be required to produce at full capacity. Anything less than a full mobilization will lead to a policy of triage and genocide.

The problem is that financial interests are monopolizing the world food markets and most of the arable land of the planet, manipulating food prices. As a consequence, most of our farmers will be ruined within very short order. Very soon, the French agricultural sector will be reduced to 150,000 vertically integrated farms, essentially vectored toward international markets, from which very few French consumers will benefit.

In the agricultural sector, as well as in the economy as a whole, a completely new political choice is thus required. The time has come to form a new Resistance movement, rallying producers and consumers of our country, Europe, and the world. My commitment is to provide a guiding principle for this Resistance and a program to fight this financial genocide.

II. Restore Food Sovereignty; Give Priority to Production

My approach is to organize everything from the top down, from the international to the national:

1. **Create a new world monetary and financial system**, based on a planetary-wide New Bretton Woods structure, so that money flows back to labor and production in agriculture, as in all other economic sectors.

2. **Organize long-term credit at low interest rates for investing in great development projects worldwide**, thus creating the necessary infrastructure for agricultural development (water, transport, research centers for plant life). A few examples of such projects: replenishing Lake Chad by diverting Congo Basin water; building irrigation systems in Tunisia and Algeria.

3. **Eliminate the Anglo-American financial oligarchy of the City of London and Wall Street**. This is a first requirement for credit creation. Establish a Glass-Steagall reform of the banking system by separating speculative banks from commercial banks. The deposits of citizens and credits for production must be protected against all speculation.

4. **Restore the French model of solidarity and mutual benefit**.

5. **Return to a protectionist and regulated system**. Create public stocks of basic food commodities in ex-

porting countries as well as in importing countries, such as in the Maghreb, in order to establish food security and avoid shortages, as Franklin Delano Roosevelt did in the United States during the Great Depression.

6. Create a World Monitoring Center for food stocks and price controls for agricultural products and land, based on the productive credit system of the New Bretton Woods.

7. Invest in climate forecasting mechanisms (via satellites) for the purpose of better forecasting weather systems for conditions of production, and to better understand cosmic radiation coming from the galaxy and the Solar System. Increase funding and cooperation between the National Center for Spatial Studies (CNES) and the National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA).

8. Organize markets for raw materials within an intelligent protectionist system. Restore the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on an international scale: unity of markets, community preferences, and financial solidarity. Stop the financial arbitrariness of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and eliminate the domination of the food cartels.

9. Return to a policy of parity prices restoring the farmer's ability to reinvest in new productive cycles.

Redistribute direct payments to farmers for the most favorable modes of production, for the most beneficial products, and for the best nutritional levels.

Restore the balance of financial assistance according to the size of the farms.

Establish a system of compensation for losses during bad years.

10. A series of measures can and must be taken immediately.

The first measure is to restore the balance in favor of livestock farmers who suffer the most from speculative prices.

The second measure is to support a short-circuit system in order to avoid middlemen.

The third measure is to help farmers invest collectively or individually in the transformation, commercialization, and improvement of the quality of their products, and promote economic organizations (groups of producers and cooperatives) aimed at reinforcing their negotiating power.

The fourth measure is to launch "Operation Truth," by requiring product labeling that shows the price paid to the producer.

The fifth measure relates to wine producers, who,

since 2009, no longer have an organization of their own. I will introduce new measures, including the restoration of the right of planting, expected to be eliminated in 2015.

11. Organize a moratorium on unfair debt related to agriculture, case by case, and depending on the region and the production capabilities.

12. Bring about a revolution in agrobiophysics, which would go from the current chemicals-dominated agriculture to an agriculture that takes the soil, not as a passive substance on which man blindly grows things, but as a living process for which man provides the best possible conditions for rational production: agrobiophysics.

The relationship between financial gain and ecological degradation can be beaten from the top down. The common enemy is the financier, who today exploits and manipulates everybody. This revolution requires that we help farmers to become "physicians of land," in order to restore soil and develop land with technologies that respect the complexities of the agrosystems.

Thus, the time has come to give priority to agricultural production and to food sovereignty, out of which will come the progressive development of an agrobiophysics of the future, which will emphasize the relationship between the creative powers of the human being (the Noösphere) and the domain in which he lives (the Biosphere and Lithosphere). Such agrobiophysicists will not be unrelated to future astronauts who, themselves, as intellectual and physical laborers, like farmers, will discover new lands, upon which to grow new forms of life.

This agricultural policy must become an integral part of a courageous new world policy, otherwise we will be left with bandages on a sick body.

The purpose is to give to young people the desire to take the place of the old who are passing on, with neither financial bondage nor dependency on welfare, thus avoiding the dislocation of the social fabric of our nation, and securing the beauty of its countryside.

Those who are part of the system obstinately refuse to think in those terms, because their careers have been made by the system. The crisis is not an agricultural crisis; agriculture is merely a symptom. We are in a general crisis—financial, monetary, and social. It is our duty to bring justice to those who produce what we eat, if we want to change things in general, that is, to get out of this stock exchange system which destroys both work and production.