

## I. — INTRODUCTIVE PAPER

**People meetings organized by the French Ministry of Agriculture :  
a report on pig production**

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A series of meetings between people concerned with agriculture were organized from May 1982 to February 1983 by the Ministry of Agriculture. During that period 200 000 farmers have discussed the fate of Agriculture and expressed their requirements in terms of experimental research and technical advices.

Pig production problems have often been debated, the bad reputation of this production emphasized, but also its advantage in creating new jobs.

A remarkable effort has been done the last 15 years to modernize the pig production and all specialized research bodies have contributed to that task.

On account of the difficult situation of pig production to-day, the following points were stressed :

— the existence of different production systems adapted to the variety of French Agriculture ;

— insufficient pig channel policy both in terms of market organization, research and experimentation ;

— the determining role of the theoretical and practical training of farmers in the improvement of herd performances ;

— necessity of a better relationship between research — education — development through an increased circulation of knowledge and a larger diffusion of farmer experiences.

The French Swine Research Days have represented since 15 years a privileged occasion for exchanges between the different agents of the pig channel. The advances made in practise should be taken into account during the coming meetings so as to obtain valuable information for further research.