



MAIZE,
A KEY TO BUILD
OUR FUTURE.



*Maize, technical innovations,
genetics, and
European seeds*

Exclusive Study Tour
France - June 29–July 2, 2026

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A must-attend event for maize industry professionals

France is welcoming an international delegation of farmers, industry leaders, journalists, and distributors for an exceptional study tour focused on maize. This is a unique opportunity to gain deeper insights into this major crop while connecting with key players in the French seed industry, recognized worldwide for its excellence — and share experiences and insights with a delegation of professionals.

- **Discover the latest innovations:** Dive into the heart of the production techniques, high-performing varieties, and solutions for sustainable agriculture that have made the European maize seed industry renowned.
- **Meet the experts:** Engage directly with industry professionals, from seed companies to farmers, researchers, and manufacturers.
- **Expand your network:** Take advantage of a unique setting (including European culinary heritage) to connect with participants from Germany, Poland, France, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, and enrich your practices through diverse perspectives.
- **Find inspiration for the future:** Rethink your own projects in light of the best practices and success stories shared during this trip.
- **Immerse yourself in a region with a long history of maize production:** Visit the historic heartland of European maize seed production. There, you'll discover a well-structured industry and a region rich in history and gastronomy!

Who Are We?

FNPSMS

Founded in 1968, FNPSMS is an interprofessional organization bringing together all stakeholders involved in maize and sorghum seed production in France.

It represents **75% of breeding companies, 100% of seed production companies**, and all maize and sorghum seed growers' unions in France.

Its members are divided into two groups:

- **31 departmental seed growers' unions**, representing **2,800 contract seed growers** and forming the seed maize section of the AGPM (French Maize Producers Association).
- **31 seed companies**, federated within the maize and sorghum section of the UFS (French Seed Trade Association).

A shared objective: to manage French seed production from both technical and economic perspectives, contribute to its development in France and internationally, and represent the sector before French and European institutions.

FNPSMS's Main Mission:

Economic organization of the sector, through monitoring technological, economic, and climate-related developments, as well as developing innovative tools to secure income and formalize relationships between growers and seed companies.

Technical support, by optimizing production processes in the field and at processing plants, while strengthening market opportunities.

Communication and promotion in France, Europe, and internationally through conferences, publications, trade fairs, specialized press, social media, and training initiatives. Quality and certification, by ensuring the compliance and reliability of produced seeds in order to meet export requirements.

European partnerships, by building alliances with professional organizations across European Union member states.

FNPSMS positions itself as the leading organization and reference point for the development of the maize and sorghum seed sector, thereby contributing to its international reputation and global reach.



PZPK

PZPK is the professional association representing the maize and maize seed sector in Poland. Active nationwide since 1984, PZPK is the only organization representing maize producers in the country.

Its members include both maize growers and maize seed producers, represented by **18 foreign breeding companies and 2 Polish breeding companies**.

In collaboration with its members (farmers, grain producers, distributors, and breeders), PZPK carries out numerous initiatives within the maize sector, including:

- **Promoting and implementing technical innovations.**
- **Collaborating with agricultural universities, research institutes** (such as IUNG, IOR, and COBORU), **government agencies** (such as PIORIN and KOWR), and **the Ministry of Agriculture.**
- **Conducting trials** in cooperation with COBORU.
- **Organizing the "Corn Days"**, three annual events held in different regions of the country during the harvest season, bringing together scientists, breeders, distributors of agricultural inputs, and manufacturers of agricultural machinery and equipment.
- **Organizing training sessions aimed at promoting good agronomic practices.**
- **Publishing the online magazine "Kukurydza".**

Program Highlights

A comprehensive programme: over these three days, site visits, laboratory tours, plant tours, technical workshops, and roundtable discussions will be paired with informal networking opportunities, combining expertise with a convivial atmosphere.



Monday, June 29

Participants' arrival **Pau**

Dinner

Tuesday, June 30

Montardon (64121)

Presentation of the **FNPSMS** and the **PZPK**, the current campaign, and a tour of the laboratory

Lunch break

Lescar (64230)

Tour of the **LIDEA** facilities: factory, laboratory, greenhouse, and field tour to explore a seed propagation site

Dinner: Tour of the Cave de Jurançon followed by dinner in **Gan**

Wednesday, July 1

Peyrehorade (40300)

Tour of the **Bayer Crop Science** facilities: tour of the plant and laboratory

Lunch break

Haut-Mauco (40280)

Tour of the **MAS SEEDS** facilities: a tour of the production plant, from maize cob reception to bagging, followed by a discussion with the production manager

Vielle-Tursan (40320)

Field visit to a seed producer (Benoit Laborde **AGPM seeds**) and demonstration of defoliation equipment in use

Dinner: Farm Inn

Thursday, July 2

Montardon (64121)

Tour of the **Arvalis** facilities: exploration of the technical platform and discussion of research topics related to maize

Lunch break

Participants' return

Speakers and Site Hosts

A detailed presentation of all the experts hosting the site visits will be provided following the study tour.

Key Figures of the French Maize Sector



120 000

Maize growers



250 000

Jobs supported by the sector



2.8 Mha

Area cultivated with maize



5.2 Mrd €

Agricultural turnover



GRAIN MAIZE

1.43 Mha

13.4 Mt produced, including 11.1 Mt collected



FORAGE MAIZE

1.25 Mha

16,3 Mt of dry matter



SEED MAIZE

65 000 ha

210 000 t

Key Figures of the Polish Maize Sector



1.9 Mha

1,3 Mha of grain maize and 600 000 ha of forage maize



9 Mt

Of maize consumed annually, including 6.1 Mt used for animal feed



2004

Year of Poland's accession to the European Union



14 Mha

Of arable land



1.2 M

Agricultural holdings, with an average cultivated area of 11 ha



2025

Harvest Data. Poland is the third-largest maize producer in Europe, with 10 Mt of maize production

USE OF FRENCH GRAIN MAIZE PRODUCTION

2.9 Mt
Animal feed



1.7 Mt
Starch processing



0.26 Mt
Semolina production

Exported to the European Market
The EU is one of the world's leading maize importers

0.53 Mt
Ethanol production



**MAIZE,
A KEY TO BUILD
OUR FUTURE.**

Growing maize, with pride

Growing maize today is about much more than producing a high-yielding crop. It means contributing to food security, energy supply, regional economies, and the major agricultural and environmental transitions. This reality is driven every day by the dedication and commitment of growers.

With this campaign, the maize sector has chosen to place farmers back at the heart of the conversation. Moving away from defensive rhetoric, the objective is to simply and proudly highlight what maize concretely delivers: productivity, innovation, market opportunities, food sovereignty, biocontrol solutions, unique climate resilience, and a tangible contribution to environmental balance.

Every headline and message stems from a core conviction: behind maize's performance are skilled, passionate, and committed producers. Farmers who swiftly embrace innovation, evolve their practices, and meet the expectations of modern, sustainable agriculture.

This campaign also reflects a collective know-how: a sector that continuously breeds, innovates, experiments, and progresses to adapt maize to field realities, climate change, and farm needs.

Through these messages, the goal is clear: to restore confidence, highlight the strengths of maize, and value those who grow it. Because beyond statistics and performance, maize is fundamentally a crop of the future, driven by the men and women who cultivate it with pride and expertise.



Maize is a CO₂ suction pump. Through its unique photosynthesis, maize captures more CO₂ compared to other field crops.

Maize features a highly efficient C4 photosynthetic metabolism, enabling it to maximize summer sunlight and heat. Throughout its growth cycle, it absorbs large amounts of carbon dioxide to produce biomass, making it one of the most effective crops for carbon capture. Farmers harness this natural performance to drive productive, sustainable, and resilient agriculture.

MAIZE, A CROP WITH EXEMPLARY CARBON PERFORMANCE

A naturally resilient crop that requires fewer treatments and field interventions.

Maize is among the crops that require relatively few interventions throughout its growing cycle. Fewer passes through the fields directly translate to lower fuel consumption and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Combined with agronomic advances and precision farming practices, this efficiency significantly improves the crop's carbon footprint. A quiet but meaningful achievement driven every day by the expertise and dedication of growers.

MY FIELDS HELP OUR PLANET BREATHE

Maize, a natural air purifier. One hectare of maize can produce up to twice as much oxygen as one hectare of forest.

When maize grows during the height of summer, it displays remarkable biological activity. Its leaves capture carbon, convert sunlight into energy, and release large amounts of oxygen. Behind every standing crop are the growers whose daily dedication contributes in a very tangible way to the ecological balance and vitality of rural communities.

MY FIELDS ARE THE ENGINES OF CHANGE

Maize - a renewable energy source. Maize ethanol emits half the CO₂ of gasoline.

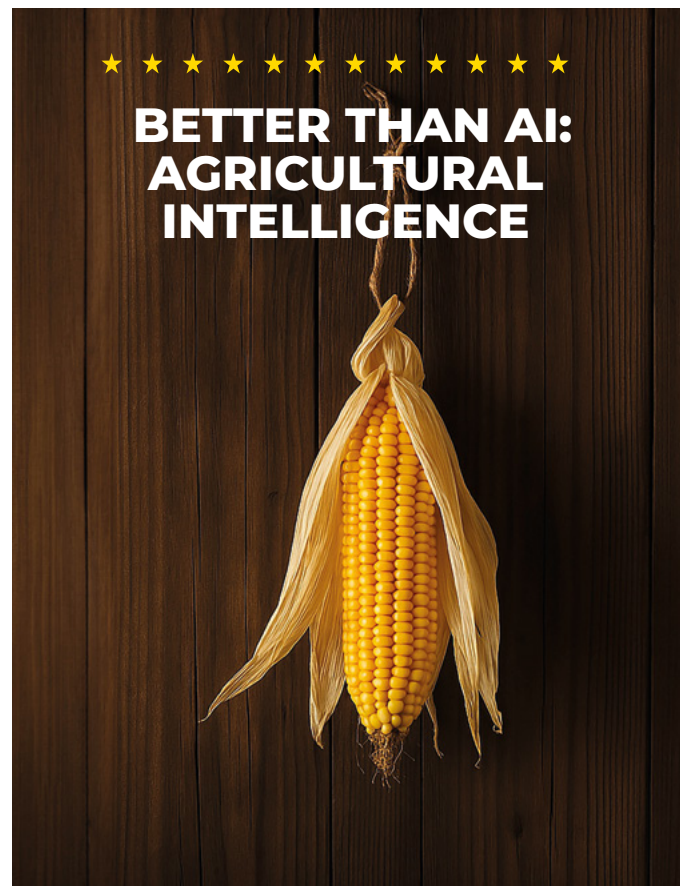
Maize does more than provide food, it also fuels renewable energy. When converted into bioethanol, it significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions compared to fossil fuels. Behind this industry are the growers who play a tangible role in the energy transition, producing a local, renewable resource that supports everyday needs.



MY CROP BRINGS ME FAR MORE THAN JUST PRIDE

Maize is a key factor in farm profitability. Its potential, adaptability, ongoing development, as well as the growers' know-how make it a profitable crop.

Maize remains a strategic crop for many farms. Its reliability, multiple market outlets, and high yield potential make it an important economic driver in many regions. Combined with farmers' technical expertise and continuous genetic advances, this performance helps build robust farming systems capable of investing and planning for the future.



Maize is a progress-based crop. Its breeding, seed quality, productivity, disease and pest tolerance, climate adaptation, and outlet versatility improve constantly.

Agricultural progress is built over time. Through plant breeding, agronomic innovation, and high-quality seeds, maize becomes increasingly productive and resilient each year. With enhanced disease resistance, climate adaptation, and optimized end uses: this continuous improvement gives farmers ever more precise and effective tools. It is a field-based intelligence shaped as much by science as by experience.

www.maize.seedsforfuture.eu/en/



THERE IS NO BETTER FERTILIZER THAN OUR OWN PASSION

Maize is a crop for enthusiasts. With their excellent technical know-how, growers put genetic progress to work and are quick to align their agronomic practices with the latest innovations.

Growing maize requires observation, anticipation, and strong technical expertise. Variety selection, planting, irrigation, crop protection, harvesting—every decision matters. This level of precision drives farmers to quickly adopt innovations and continuously adapt their practices. Behind every successful harvest are women and men deeply committed to their profession.

WHY SHOULDN'T COWS BE ALLOWED TO EAT LOCALLY?

Maize is a European crop that feeds the European cattle. Europe's feed maize crops feed Europe's dairy cows.

Silage maize is at the heart of many livestock farms across Europe. Locally produced, it allows herds to be fed with a resource available close to farms while ensuring secure feed stocks. This complementarity between crop production and livestock farming helps strengthen the agricultural balance of rural areas and sustain locally rooted dairy production.

DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

Due to the wide range of its varieties, maize provides high yields in all of Europe's soils and climates, as well as numerous outlets.

Grain, silage, human food, energy, industry: maize serves a wide range of purposes. This versatility is supported by an exceptional range of varieties, able to adapt to soils, climates, and the needs of European value chains. For growers, this diversity offers both security, flexibility, and new economic opportunities.



Maize is a crop that contributes to food self-reliance. By producing more maize, one imports less.

Producing more in Europe also means reducing dependence on imports. Thanks to its yield potential and wide range of uses, maize plays a strategic role in human and animal nutrition. This production capacity strengthens food sovereignty while securing European agricultural supply chains. A major challenge carried forward each season by farmers.

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FINALLY, A CROP THAT BRINGS EUROPE TOGETHER



Maize is the second most widely grown grain in Europe - and no wonder: the range of its European varieties is such that they can adapt to a lot of soils and climates, including to climate change.

From southern Spain to the plains of Central Europe, maize thrives in a wide variety of environments. A rich genetic diversity and decades of continuous varietal breeding and selection. Resilient, flexible, and constantly evolving, maize empowers European farmers to meet the climate and food challenges of tomorrow.

MY CROP SCORED 10 OUT OF 10 FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL.

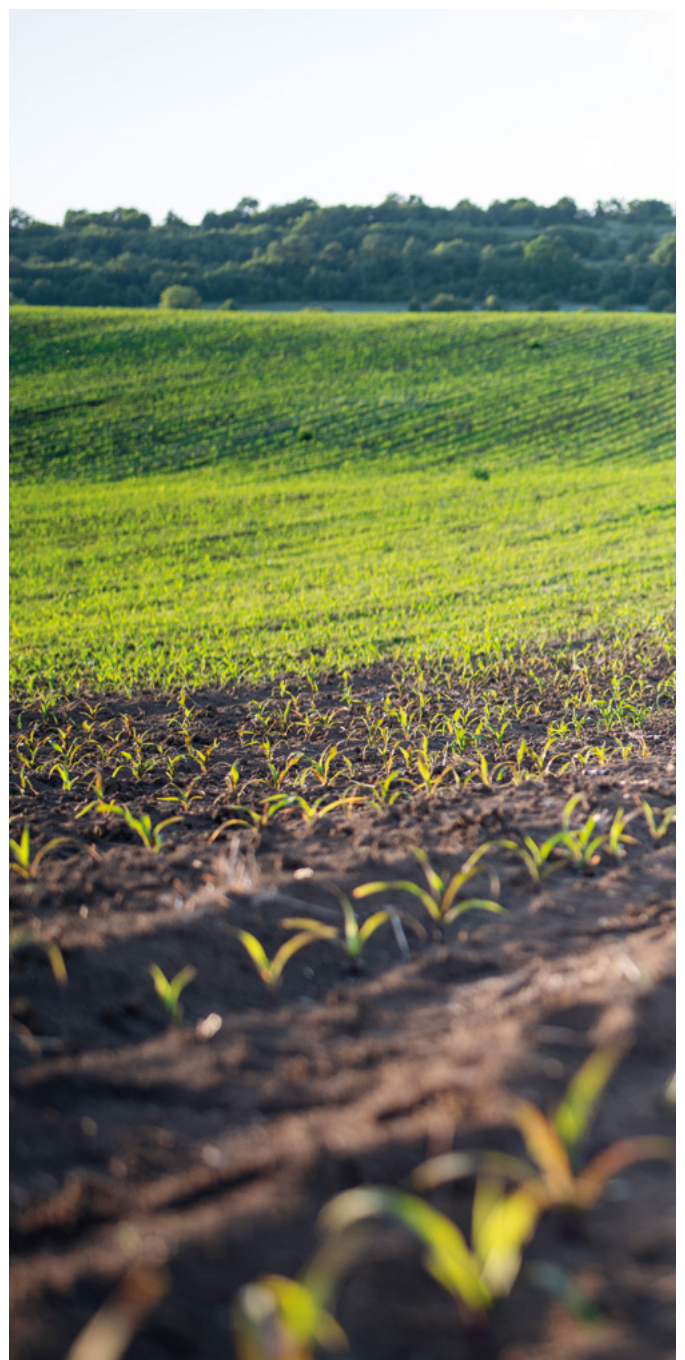
Maize is able to use biocontrol to defend itself. Maize controls corn borers more effectively than pesticides or *Trichogramma*.

In maize fields, crop protection also relies on natural balance. To control the European corn borer, many growers use trichogramma wasps, tiny beneficial insects that naturally help limit pest populations. This biocontrol method reduces the need for chemical treatments while maintaining agronomic effectiveness. It is a concrete example of a farming approach that is technical, innovative, and mindful of the living environment.

THEIR CULTURE? PRODUCTIVITY

Maize is a high-potential crop. Its unique photosynthesis, the wide range of its varieties, and our technical expertise make it a crop with exceptional yield potential.

Maize combines a unique set of strengths: rapid growth, exceptional photosynthetic efficiency, and remarkable adaptability. Supported by its genetic diversity and the technical expertise of growers, these qualities make it possible to achieve high yields across a wide range of growing conditions. Behind these results are farmers who know how to maximize the potential of every hectare.



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