Milan Pact Awards 2025	**NANTES**						
Country	France						
Population	680,000						
Title of practice	Metropolitan agricultural land strategy						
Subtitle	Development and implementation of an agricultural land strategy to plan land intervention measures						
MUFPP Recommended Action	23. Protect and enable secure access and tenure to land for sustainable food production in urban and peri-urban areas, including land for community gardeners and smallholder producers, for example through land banks or community land trusts; provide access to municipal land for local agricultural production and promote integration with land use and city development plans and programmes. – FOOD PRODUCTION						
Starting year	2023	**Ending year (if any)**			☐already submitted in the past		
Actors and stakeholders' involvement	**Municipal departments**	**Other public institutions**	**NGOs CSOs**	**Research centres**	**Private sectors**	**International organizations**	**Other**
	24	1	6				
Budget	The implementation of the land strategy relies on the mobilisation of the metropolitan budget: € 270,000 in annual operating costs (subsidies to agricultural partners) and €1,500,000 in investment (direct aid for land clearing, acquisition of built and unbuilt land) + CD subsidy.						
Brief description	There is strong pressure on land in peri-urban areas: land is sought after for a variety of purposes (residential, leisure, economic activities other than agriculture, etc.), putting pressure on agricultural land. However, agricultural activity is essential to ensuring the highest possible level of food sovereignty in our region, securing our supplies and re-localising activity. The metropolitan agricultural land strategy, approved in October 2023, aims to structure metropolitan land intervention on agricultural land. The objective is to respond to the following challenges: maintaining and consolidating food production areas and sites; renewing the agricultural population; and supporting farms in their transition to organic farming practices. Various levers for action have been identified that can be mobilised in a manner tailored to the situations and priority areas for intervention identified: land acquisitions (including agricultural housing), the reclamation of abandoned agricultural land and enhanced land protection in certain areas. Since then, two farms and two agricultural dwellings are in the process of being acquired by the metropolitan authority, several hectares have been cleared, and 4,370 hectares of agricultural and natural areas are now permanently protected by a PEAN (Périmètre de Protection des Espaces Agricoles et Naturelles - Agricultural and Natural Area Protection Zone).						

Innovation	The agricultural land strategy is innovative in several respects: • The definition of a framework for land acquisitions (including agricultural housing) by the Metropolis, enabling the development of a new response to the challenges of farm transfers. Access to land (including agricultural housing) is one of the main difficulties encountered by agricultural project leaders when setting up, especially those who do not come from an agricultural background. • The mobilisation of land tools such as the PEAN (National Emergency Housing Programme) to ensure the long-term agricultural and natural use of land beyond traditional planning documents. • Involving all agricultural partners who are not used to working together in a broader governance structure. • A territorial approach in conjunction with local authorities and farmers to ensure that local issues are addressed as closely as possible • Experimentation with farm acquisition schemes involving community organisations (Passeurs de Terres) and social landlords to link agricultural land and staff accommodation.
Impact	The diagnosis of farms and abandoned agricultural land in metropolitan areas (updated every five years) shows positive trends between 2016 and 2020: agricultural land in the metropolitan area remained stable (15,000 ha, or 30% of the territory, two-thirds of which is used for cattle farming) and the number of farms with organic certification increased, with nearly 30% of farms now certified, compared with 18% in 2016. In addition, 45 project leaders have been supported since 2019. • Environmental impact: area under organic farming and number of organic farms concerned, sustainably protected agricultural areas • Economic impact: amount of investment aid, amount of support for PAT associations and partners - number of farms in food production and associated areas
Inclusion	This agricultural land strategy was developed by Nantes Métropole in collaboration with its 24 municipalities to meet a number of their expectations: to ensure the long-term future of farms and make new agricultural land available for new developments. The challenges and principles of spatial planning were shared with farmers. The political monitoring committee for the land strategy was also involved in defining the framework for the metropolitan area's intervention. Finally, the metropolitan area's main agricultural partners (Chamber of Agriculture, Cap44, GAB 44, Terres de Liens, SAFER) were also able to contribute to the development of this strategy, and the departmental council was mobilised on the PEAN issue.