

# Les Moustaches

## Newsletter 1

I was asked too many times to start writing a newsletter. I was first reluctant because I felt there was not enough material to share, but now that I think of it, what we are in the midst of is full of beautiful hope for many. So here I am, to let you know how we are developing at Les Moustaches.

Firstly, let me explain why I use English instead of French. Well because our team is composed of individuals from France but also Germany, Romania and the US. Because we have worked in India for a long time and our network is a beautiful mix of all the nations in the world, because what we do - though it is local - is connected to many local actions spread out around the world. And certainly because English is the fastest way to get words travelling around the world.

So, we have signed a promise for the acquisition of our little heaven! The project was safe validated by SAFER (which is responsible for agricultural lands' transactions) and we thus have the next three months ahead to secure the necessary funds for land acquisition.

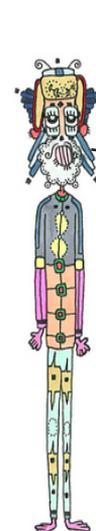
We have started sharing the word around us, with our family, with our friends, with the friends of our friends. We have been asking for money. Not that we want money for ourselves, but because we don't have the money to purchase the farm or the materials needed for our beginning. And because we wish for our endeavor to be a collective movement towards designing new types of societies.

<http://www.lesmoustaches.farm/portfolio>

Some of you might be accustomed to crowdfunding. Well this is basically what we do. We are asking the bigger community to contribute little in order to help us achieve our big dream. If we are not using Kisskiss-Bankbank or Kickstarter or Lendopolis or any of the other crowdfunding platforms that exist, it is simply because we prefer the closeness of emailing or meeting with people.

So far we have gathered 33 associates for the SCI - ownership of the land - which amounts to 83 000€. It is a good start but we still have some way to go to reach our final objective of 200 000€. This is a very safe placement that has a 2% p.a. return on investment. Associates' investments oscillate between 500€ and 10 000€. So any amount is accepted! As for the association we have gathered 5 500€. These funds are dedicated solely to the establishment of our cooperative workshop, our database and our teaching facilities. If you have any will to participate don't hesitate to contact us!

Achat Propriété	120 000€
Frais SAFER	7 200€
Matériaux rénovation : - Toiture (bacs acier, écrans sous toiture, panneaux, bardage) - Charpente (poutres, gouttières) - Ceinture de maintien (ciment, fers a béton) - Isolation (panneaux) - Enduit (chaux, sable, poudre de marbre) - Fenêtre (double vitrage, porte fenêtre)	52 100€
Plomberie (tuyaux, joints, embouts)	12 000€
Réseau solaire (panneaux, régulateurs, batteries, accessoires)	7 000€
Nivellement	1 700€
	200 000€



Every euro counts!

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The truth is we are not alone. Makesense is helping us a lot in our work. Their incubation centre based in Paris has a wide network of entrepreneurs spread out around the world. Their mission is to kick start social businesses. They help us raise visibility and design our proposal better. I was also invited to speak to one of their radio show. They are full of energy and reactivity and their help is of great value.

And we are also backed up by Fermes d'Avenir, who is looking into integrating us in their network of farms for the future. We are working on a proposal so that we collaborate on the development of our database. Fermes d'avenir is a beautiful economic proposal and they deserve a lot of attention for trying to demonstrate that a small parcel of agricultural land can be productive enough – using only natural methods - to generate stable incomes.

We have also submitted our project to a number of foundations such as Fondation pour Une Terre Humaine, Fondation Un Monde Par Tous, Fondation Charles Leopold Mayer, Fondation Nature Et Decouvertes et Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco, which are all studying our project and looking into donating or investing. We have obviously chosen the foundations that resonate the most with our ethical stand. And if you know any other ones that would be interested in our proposal then don't hesitate to share the word!

An interesting lead we are following too is the national network of CIGALE. It is an association of groups of investors that only finance local and ethical projects. We have engaged a discussion with them and they are looking into our portfolio. They are carrying a really interesting value proposal i.e. keep investments local and for the social and environmental benefits.



*Makesense Radio on Agriculture*

The other card we are playing is Terre de Liens, which gathers individuals' savings and place them into agricultural land ownership. To this date, they own 110 farms that are rented to organic farmers. They would be interested in buying our farm but being a big machine, any proposal is subject to a long analysis that can take up to two years. So imagine them as the big brothers, hopefully in the near future they will buy back all the associates' shares.

And I am surely forgetting other leads. What I want to put forward is that we are part of a wide movement emerging not only in France but also around the world. We are carrying a new society's proposal. Based on collaboration and trust. It is getting more and more recognition but it is still marginal. It needs more people, more supporters, more people engaging! Maybe you?

I would like to express special thanks to Alexandre Levillain - lawyer and professor of circular economy at IPAG Business School - who has decided to become our legal consulting angel.

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If you have not seen the movie 'Demain' directed by Melanie Laurent and Cyril Dion, run to the theatre and bring many friends! It is poignant and depicts brilliantly what this new society we are designing is all about.

I wish you all a beautiful day and gentle thoughts towards the ones you'll meet.

Warmly,

Elliott

*With your support that's  
where we can start every-  
thing!*

