



How to conciliate the production and the marketing of food with the Market law? This was the question asked during the "Louis Lorvellec days" that took place on December 3 and 4, 2009 at the University of Nantes, France. The approaches were multiple and the answers were very rich. What is more important, however, are the issues that have been raised subsequently. Some issues were recurrent and others were completely new, but some of the answers are still inconsistent and sometimes inadequate.

Some old questions are indicative of strategic issues: Is there a real conflict between agriculture and competition? Can competition and agriculture shape each other for the welfare of humankind? Are the legal mechanisms already in place or should be developed? Is there any real specificity in agriculture? What is then its legal sense? Does it concern farmers and farm lands? Does it include food and agribusiness? More new issues were also added: What is the link between local agriculture, peasant farmers' development and protection of foreign investment? What is the place of local trade of food in a global economy? What are the answers that market can provide to poverty? What is the link between culture and food?

Researchers and PhD students - from different continents – gathered together at the Lascaux Program now have the task to propose answers. If this seems difficult, we have to remember the optimistic words of Professor Lorvellec in 1995. According to him and specifically concerning the competition in the food industry, it is the task of the Law to rebalance the world. We must henceforth answer this claim.

Marlen León & Hugo Muñoz (Costa Rica),
PhD students at the University of Nantes, Lascaux Program

