

# EARL Le Bihan, Plouénan

## Characteristics :

2.8 ha (2 greenhouses)  
 Cherry tomatoes and older tomato varieties + mini-pepper  
 Supporting system: gutter/ coir substrate  
 Cropping season : December-> November  
 Currently installing a co-generation system

Another farm in organic agriculture: on soil under multispan greenhouse and glass greenhouse

Tomato, fennel, cucumber, Swiss chard, green bean  
 Most of the fertilisation is supplied with organic fertilisers,  
 Organic fertilisers supplied by fertigation are used as a complement  
 In this farm, irrigation is based on the grower's experience

## Water resource management:

- Only use groundwater
- Storage 300 m<sup>3</sup>
- 2 fertilisation units (1/greenhouse)
- maerl filter (pH balance)
- Aqua4 D system for supply water after fertilisation unit.

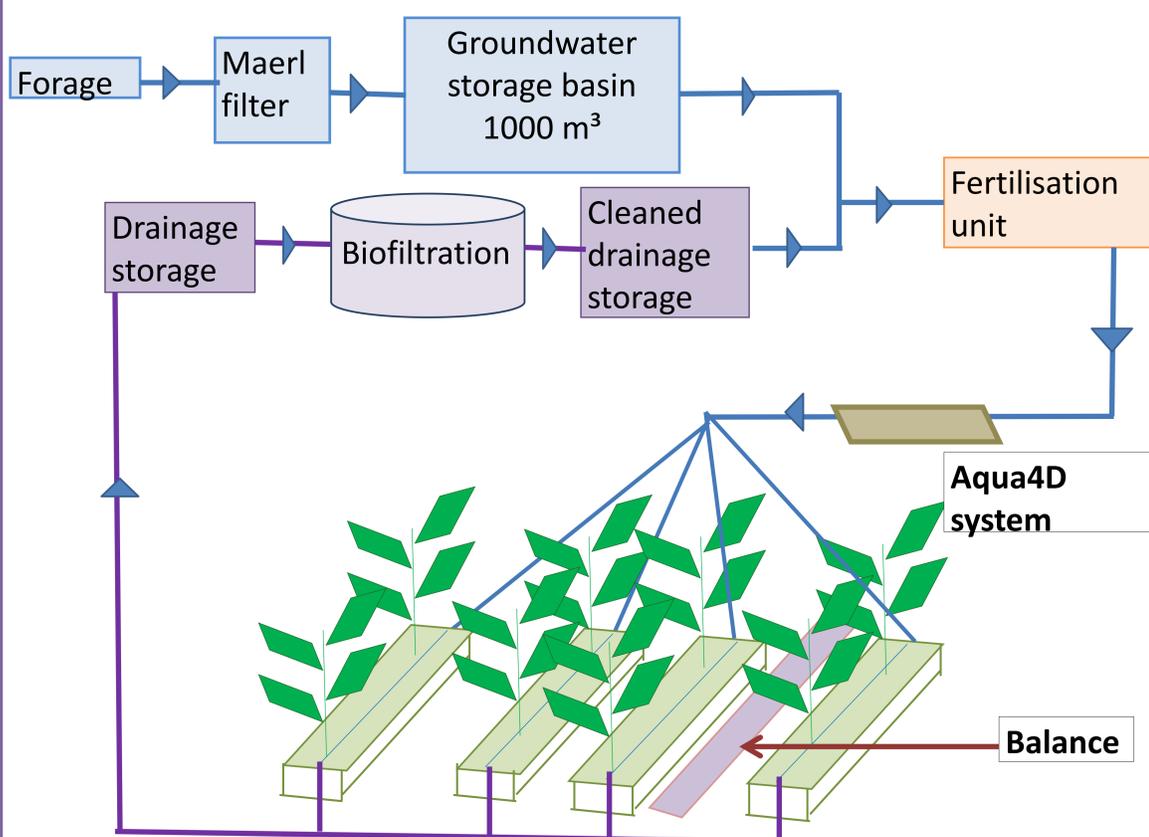
## Water and fertilisation use efficiency:

- Irrigation control : managed by climatic computer (clock, solar radiation)
- Control tools: slab balances (1/ greenhouse)

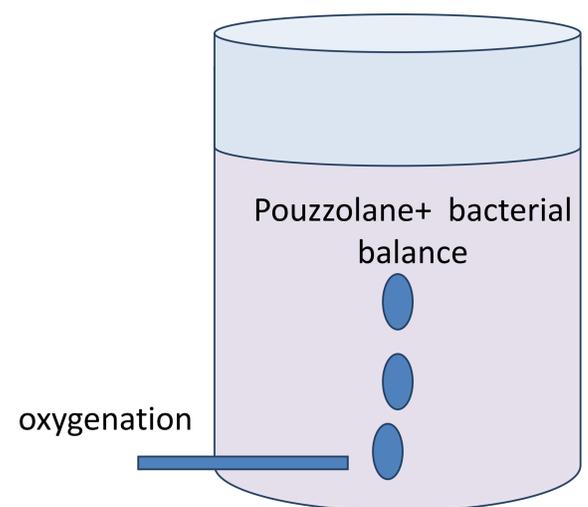
## Effluent management:

- 90 % of the drainage is recycled (yearly average of drainage represents ≈25% of the supplied water)
- storage : 135m<sup>3</sup> before and 76m<sup>3</sup> after treatment
- Water supplied to the crop≈ 10000m<sup>3</sup>/ha/year
- Drainage treatment by dynamic slow sand filtration (biofiltration): flow= 7 m<sup>3</sup>/h

## System :



## Biofiltration



Identification	Proportion in %
<i>Bacillus</i> sp. n°1	8
<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	45
<i>Bacillus</i> sp. n°2	8
<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	27
<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	12

## The grower's description:

Slow sand filtration enables a balance of various bacterial species in the water which makes the system more resilient and less subject to the excessive growth of one pathogen species in case of problems (contrary to other treatment systems which remove the pathogens).

This system requires some maintenance and monitoring once it is installed (less than with UV). Coir substrates are used because they are cheaper than rockwool, can be valued locally after the crop, and are compatible with the treatment system. The maerl filter has been installed to avoid large pH variations during the cropping season. The Aqua4D system has been installed to fight against agrobacterium problems; however, climate management may also have contributed to improved control of this problem during the current year.

In the organic farm, irrigation management is based on the growers' experience. Sensors and other tools for irrigation management have not convinced the grower because of issues of reliability, not being user friendly, soil heterogeneity).



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