

### Our mission

Two billion people on our planet depend directly on agriculture and livestock farming to survive. Trade globalization, economic liberalization, and the disengagement of States continually place new constraints on rural societies and leave smallholder populations to face increasingly difficult living conditions on their own.

As an association that works in favor of international solidarity, **AVSF supports and works with those rural communities most threatened by exclusion and precariousness to help them generate income and sustainable means of existence and become drivers of their own development.**

The underlying principle of AVSF is to work in partnership with local organizations, local authorities, public services, and companies in both the South and the North, and to facilitate exchange and partnerships between professionals in both the North and the South.

**AVSF's volunteers and employed staff members are experienced men and women who contribute their energy and know-how in order to help smallholder populations.**

### Our methods of action

In carrying out activities for development, raising awareness, advocacy, and education for development, AVSF strives to foster autonomous and sustainable development by:

- ensuring equitable access to natural resources (water, land, pastures, forests) and services (loans, technical advising, training, etc.);
- promoting efficient, balanced, and sustainable practices for both crop and livestock farming;
- teaching techniques and passing along know how with a view to achieving rural development that is well controlled;
- creating possibilities for action on markets in order to enable producers to protect themselves against the local impact of deregulation measures: creation of new supply chains, development of fair trade, etc.
- supporting local actors (cooperatives, producer groups, professional trade unions, training and technical support centers) that are involved in markets and in public policies that promote development.
- creating relationships based on solidarity and cooperation between actors in different countries.

### Our values

AVSF seeks to promote greater equity in international relations and **refuses to accept and give in to the inequalities that many consider to be unavoidable.** In this regard, AVSF participates in and contributes to advocacy in favor of a major reorientation of the general policies and the economic and social practices that give rise to poverty and unfairness. AVSF encourages its members and partners to share their experiences in order to stimulate reflection and debate on issues related to development.

**AVSF has a global approach and does not view the situations in the South and the North differently. Both regions are involved in one and the same combat to have greater control over agricultural policy, respect local identity, and refuse the free market.**

AVSF seeks to demonstrate that smallholder farming is economically viable, ecologically sustainable, and socially just. **In addition to supplying markets, smallholder farming also creates jobs, promotes biodiversity, and encourages greater participation of smallholders in local democracy.**

AVSF never seeks to take over the role of the local actors themselves and will not intervene in any way that would exclude the local populations.

AVSF is open to anyone who shares these same values.