

Bouzel (Puy-de-Dôme, Auvergne), 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010

## ■ Limagrain consolidates its wheat chain with Le Moulin de Verdonnet

**Acquired in January 2010 to reinforce Limagrain's milling capacities, Le Moulin de Verdonnet now occupies its rightful place at the heart of the Group's wheat chain**

Le **Moulin de Verdonnet**, which extends the milling capacities of the SMC (*Société Meunière du Centre*) based in Gerzat, **plays a major role in supplying Groupe Limagrain's wheat chain: Jacquet, Limagrain Céréales Ingrédients and Gerbe d'Or**. It is also pursuing business through its traditional outlets: bakeries, large distribution chains (products for bake houses and 1 kg bags sold under private labels) and food industries. It is important to note that Le Moulin de Verdonnet, located in Bouzel in the heart of the Limagne region, is one of the most modern mills in Europe, due to its high level of automation.

The mill currently processes 55,000 tons of wheat. It should rapidly be able to process 80,000 tons considering the dynamics of the sector, **which registered a strong increase in the volume of orders (+40% in July 2010 compared to July 2009)**. It offers new outlets for wheat produced by Cooperative members in Limagne. In fact, farmers were able to appreciate the interest of this new industrial tool in June during a special "members' day visit". The new mill, along with the SMC, will be able to handle **120,000 tons of wheat** (compared to 100,000 tons today) **or 85% of the wheat collected by the Cooperative**.

An investment plan has been scheduled to reinforce capacities for grain storage and optimise the mill's performance in order to meet our customer's needs more effectively.

### Le Moulin de Verdonnet: key figures

- > Workforce: **38** employees
- > Turnover in 2009: **€15** million
- > Wheat milled annually: **55,000** tons
- > Annual flour production: **42,000** tons

### Société Meunière du Centre (SMC): key figures

- > Workforce: **26** employees
- > Turnover in 2009: **€12** million
- > Wheat milled annually: **40,000** tons
- > Annual flour production: **32,000** tons

### Limagrain's wheat chain in Auvergne



Limagrain is an international agricultural co-operative **specialised in seeds and cereal products**. It conducts its business within the framework of a global, sustainable vision of agriculture and food industries based on innovation and the regulation of agricultural markets. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest seeds company in the world through its subsidiary **Vilmorin & Co**, European leader for functional flours through **Limagrain Céréales Ingrédients** and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest French industrial baker through **Jacquet**. The Group represents over one billion Euros in sales and employs more than 6 000 people in nearly 40 countries including 1 200 researchers.

For more information visit [www.limagrain.com](http://www.limagrain.com)

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