

Reduction of agrochemicals and alternative solutions to fight against fungal diseases in wine production

Thibaud BROCARD, NUFFIELD Scholar 2013

Thibaud is a young winemaker operating in the south of the Champagne area : the Côte des Bar. He came back in the family estate 4 years ago to manage the winery.

He grew up in a wineworld atmosphere, more than a job that's a passion. A passion that's trying to bring to the top.

To do this he had to focus on the biggest problem in champagne. The main problem he meets is specific to the vineyard. Famous to many people, we call it generally cryptogrammic disease.

Here, it's dealing about 2 diseases really problematic for the healthy growing of the vineyard : The Mildiou (*Plasmopara Viticola*) and the Oidium (*Uncinula Necator*) which are really complicated to eradicate.

Winemakers and winemakers, all around the world, have to use a lot of chemical products to fight those diseases. For Thibaud, a sustainable viticulture has to start as soon as possible.

To help this viticulture, with the help of Nuffield and the people Thibaud met during last years, he tried something to reduce the pollution in the vineyard :
- The adaptation of the chemical product following the total volume of leaf in the vineyard at different steps of the growing.

It's an easy solution to reduce some chemicals from 15 to 40 % in certain conditions in vineyards or others farming activities. It's a first step in the sustainable viticulture.