The Evolution of Wine Prices in the French Agricultural Statistics Since the Nineteenth Century: a Case Study of Vosne-Romanée (Burgundy, France)

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Changes in agricultural statistics questions are needed in criteria economic classification to comprehend interrelationships among the several sectors in the agricultural economy. As viticulture is relatively well documented from historical agricultural statistics, the statistical information is used to examine relationships between wine price, evolution of viticulture and wine-making and opportunities in transport. Data are computed from historical collection of French government-produced agricultural statistics.

The present study concentrates on a specific case i.e. Vosne-Romanée, a Burgundy Appellation (France). Vosne-Romanée is one of the Appellations of the Côte-de-Nuits, between Dijon and Nuits-Saint-Georges. This Appellation has been selected due to archives continuity for the period of 1853-1960. In this long sequence, data are previous of phylloxera crisis and later in the establishment of the Appellation d’Origine Contrôlée (french Geographical Indications). Wine price indicated in agricultural statistics is an average price per hectolitre for the entire Appellation of Vosne-Romanée, included quality and ordinary wines. This long sequence of price is related to opportunities in transport by rail, in the middle of the nineteenth century. A focus is put on the last two decades of the nineteenth century, during the phylloxera crisis: French government has been devoting increased attention to questions concerning the structure of viticulture. Two prices are referenced, for old vineyards and less than four years vineyards. The economic effects of this breakdown of wine production are investigated and compared with prices of other Burgundy Appellations.