

A first approach of the food and biological industries (FBIs) for engineer students

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To introduce the FBI sector to the 340 AgroParisTech 1st-year students, a 15 h-module is organised. It includes first a presentation of the FBI sector during 1h30: its evolution with a complexification of the processes and the creation of intermediary products, the importance for a factory to take into account the consumers as well as the authorities and sanitary questions, and at least the many kinds of job in that sector for an engineer from AgroParisTech.

Then the student are separated in small groups of fourteen to prepare a visit of an industrial site. In each factory a meeting is organised if possible with the director and people with responsibilities in the production, research, laboratory and environment.

At least each group of student prepare an oral presentation of their visit in around one hour including the discussion. Thus the students apprehend FBI through their challenges, the organisation of the transformation process and the diversity of professions.

It is a real challenge to organize 24 accessible visits of factory on 4 days been imperative by the timetable that is 6 visits in parallel every day. But it is also an opportunity for AgroParisTech to strengthen its links with the food industry and an opportunity to involve more than 20 teachers.

So, even if the students do not choose the sector of processing industries as domain of formation for their next year, they are conscious of stakes in this sector.