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France extends the Gretea debt support program for farmers by one year

The state-backed scheme, used mainly by the wine sector, covers bank guarantee fees on five- to 12-year consolidation loans

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France will extend for one year the Gretea support program that has been used mainly by the wine sector, Agriculture Minister Annie Genevard said after meeting with industry representatives on Thursday, October 29.

The measure keeps in place a financing tool designed to reduce the cost of debt consolidation for farmers. Under Gretea, the state covers the guarantee commission fees charged by banks on consolidation loans with terms of five to 12 years. Those loans are guaranteed by the French state through Bpifrance.

Genevard made the announcement at the end of the October 29 meeting with the wine industry, according to Agra. The minister did not, in the information available, set out changes to the structure of the program beyond the one-year extension.

The program was created for farmers, but its scope has widened. Earlier this year, Gretea was also opened to agricultural cooperatives and unions of agricultural cooperatives that specialize in viticulture or fruit growing. That change means the extension is not limited to individual vineyard operators. It also applies to cooperative structures in the wine sector that may need to refinance debt over a longer period.

The decision is significant for French wine producers because the program has been used above all by viticulture, according to the report. By covering guarantee fees rather than the full cost of the loan, Gretea lowers one part of the expense tied to restructuring liabilities through longer-term bank financing. For growers and wine cooperatives under financial pressure, that can help preserve access to liquidity while spreading repayments over several years.

The extension also matters for the broader beverage industry because wine is one of the sectors directly covered by the scheme. Keeping the mechanism in place for another year may provide continued support for wineries and cooperatives seeking to stabilize their finances, which can affect production, grape purchasing and other parts of the wine supply chain.

Gretea applies to consolidation loans with maturities ranging from five to 12 years, a structure aimed at borrowers that need time to reorganize debt. The state guarantee is provided through Bpifrance, while the public support under the program specifically targets the bank guarantee commissions attached to those loans.

The announcement comes at a time when financing conditions remain a central issue for agricultural businesses that depend on bank credit and longer repayment periods to manage cash flow. In the wine sector, where cooperatives as well as independent

producers can require refinancing tools, the extra year gives lenders and borrowers more time to use a mechanism already in place rather than having to wait for a replacement.