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French Lawmakers Seek €30 Million in Emergency Aid for Grapevine Nurseries

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French grapevine nurseries are seeking an emergency support package of €30 million as the wine downturn deepens pressure on a part of the industry that supplies the young vines needed to renew vineyards.

On Thursday, November 19, lawmakers from across the political spectrum said they had written to the French government to demand what they called a national emergency plan for vine nurseries. According to the lawmakers, the sector has been weakened by the wider crisis in wine and now needs immediate public support.

The appeal underscores how stress in the French wine market is spreading beyond growers and wineries to businesses further up the supply chain. Vine nurseries produce the plants that winegrowers buy to replace old vines, replant parcels and adapt vineyards over time. If that system weakens further, it could slow the renewal of vineyards and complicate efforts to adjust production, a potential concern for the wine business and the broader beverage sector tied to French wine.

According to the lawmakers, nursery production has been cut in half over the past five years. They also said 56 million vine plants went unsold over the past three years, a sign of how sharply demand has fallen as wine producers scale back planting and investment.

The request was reported by Agra, which said the parliamentarians had alerted the executive in writing. The appeal did not come from a single political camp, suggesting broad concern over the condition of the sector and the risk of further losses if no aid is provided quickly.

The French nursery industry occupies a small but critical place in the country’s wine economy. Nurseries propagate and raise vine stock before selling it to growers for planting. Their business depends heavily on long-term decisions by wine producers, who usually replant gradually and plan vineyard changes years ahead. When those decisions are delayed or canceled, nurseries can be left with plants that cannot be sold in time.

That mismatch appears to be at the center of the current crisis. The lawmakers’ figures point to a sharp contraction in orders and a buildup of unsold stock. For a nursery, unsold plants can quickly turn into financial losses because production costs are incurred well before a sale is made, and the plants are perishable commercial inventory rather than goods that can be stored indefinitely without consequence.

The call for emergency funding also highlights the scale of the adjustment under way in French viticulture. A fall in nursery output of 50% in five years suggests that the retrenchment is not limited to one harvest or one region but is affecting the pipeline for future vineyards. That matters because the nursery business supports not only routine replacement of aging vines but also changes in grape varieties, rootstocks and planting material that growers may need when they respond to market shifts and environmental pressures.

No detailed breakdown of the proposed €30 million package was immediately available in the information published on Thursday, November 19, and there was no immediate public response from the government in the material reported by Agra. It was also not clear how the lawmakers wanted the money to be distributed among nurseries or whether they were seeking direct aid, temporary relief measures or a broader restructuring plan.

Even so, the request adds to the evidence that the French wine slump is reaching deeper into the production chain. For drinks companies and wine producers, the condition of the nursery sector may seem removed from current sales, but it can shape what vineyards are able to plant in the years ahead. A prolonged weakening of nurseries could limit flexibility for growers just as parts of the industry try to adapt to changing demand and a smaller national vineyard footprint.

The lawmakers’ intervention on Thursday, November 19, suggests they see the problem as urgent rather than cyclical. Their message was that without fast support, an already weakened nursery sector could face further damage, with consequences that may be felt well beyond the nurseries themselves.