

## **Velay Scop - Compacted minerals**

*The cooperative company located in the Haute-Loire region of France manufactures food supplements for livestock in conventional and organic farming. What makes them special? They are compacted "to preserve the properties of the raw materials". A technique rarely used in animal feed.*

The Velay Scop plant is located in the artisanal zone of Blavozy, near Puy-en-Velay. Each year, 3,000 to 4,000 tons of minerals are manufactured there, « for all species, except monogastric » says Christophe Lavigne, its director. The latter has been working there for ten years, including two as production manager. He took the head of this cooperative company in April 2018, « at the time of a production restructuring and a large number of retirements ». The Scop, « the oldest in Auvergne and perhaps in France », relies on eleven people, including six in production, and has eight members. « Each operator has an assigned task but is versatile and can be brought to work on all stations according to needs », says Christophe Lavigne who willingly keeps a foot in production. The food supplements manufactured in Blavozy are intended for both conventional and organic farming. They are marketed throughout France by some forty sales agents and independent retailers. « Moreover, we are looking for resellers as well as a technical salesman, the director says, emphasizing that the activity is dynamic and production has progressed since the restructuring: our turnover is now 3.4 M€. And we are capable of doing more! » Thus, in order to increase yields and improve the reliability of its production process, Velay Scop has invested in a new compactor, which has been operational for a year now (January 2021). This equipment, installed by the company EURAGGLO makes the specificity of the site.

### **Roller press**

The new line, equipped with a roller press to ensure compaction of the mixes, is used at a rate of 200 to 400 kg/h. « This process is suitable for raw material fines, with or, as in the case of this line, without the addition of binder, says Nina Ribals, marketing and communication assistant at EURAGGLO. The two moulding wheels rotate in opposite directions, like a rolling mill. Here the compactor is fed by a horizontal screw. The compaction force is variable and adjustable depending on the raw materials being processed, as well as the speed of the wheels, the pressure and the compression time. » Velay Scop has about 15 references of compacted products and manufactures about 550 t in a year. « This makes compaction quite complex to implement. It's never regular, there's a setting specific to each mix » says Christophe Lavigne. Especially since the Scop works with more than 350 raw materials: fossilized seaweed (lithothamnion), about sixty plants



« delivered whole and micronized within the factory » vitamins and trace elements (ocean salt, clay). « Only noble products, it would be a shame to destroy them in the process! Compaction allows us not to heat the product in order to preserve the full biological qualities of the ingredients incorporated in our formulae. » The compactor is completed on the line by a sizer granulator type BCR built by EURAGGLO and a screen with two decks. The plant has two other lines, one for powder products and one for licking stones in buckets. The latter are made without molasses « because it is considered to have a sweet effect and the animals do not need to go for it out of gluttony. We use clay, water or whey » as a binder. Velay Scop also manufactures liquid specialties for livestock and crops (foliar bio stimulant for example). Manufacturing takes place over three to four days.



« We carry out individual putting on support to avoid negative interactions between materials and up to 12 levels of mixing to arrive at the final product, underlines Christophe Lavigne. With four mixers, of 50 kg (for vitamins and trace elements), 500 kg, 3 t and 4 t. » In total, Velay Scop produces 2,900 t of premixes and 1,600 t of finished products. They are all packaged on site. A trading part completes the activities of the Scop. « We are one of the few companies to make products from A to Z, from premix to final product. We are a small structure, we have no interest in doing like everyone else! »

### **History - Key dates**

**1967:** Creation of the company by a group of inseminators. The head office is then in Ceyszac and Velay Scop makes artificial insemination and market minerals.

**1971:** The insemination activity is dropped.

**1972:** Beginning of the own production of minerals. The first complementary feeds are manufactured on the site of Monastier-sur-Gazeille.

**1977:** Relocation to Blavozy. The factory has since been expanded several times and is now 2,400 m<sup>2</sup>.

**1988:** The researcher François Pape joined Velay Scop. He worked there for about twenty years and was "at the origin of all the formulation used today. We owe him many specialties, both for the health of plants and animals," says Christophe Lavigne.

**2010:** Purchase of the company Bio 7-21, allowing to enlarge the range of products. The manufacturing is centered in Blavozy.

**2018:** Merger of the two companies in the form of a universal transmission of assets. Velay Scop continues to market, under its name, the products historically known under the brand Bio 7-21.

### **Euragglo - Agglomeration and granulation solutions**

Euragglo is a company located in Quiévrechain, on the Belgian border. Created in 1992 by Pascal Hervieu (Managing Director), it designs, manufactures and installs agglomeration and compaction equipment in France and abroad (Europe, South East Asia, Africa). Customized solutions and equipment adapted to the needs of many companies in the industrial field, allowing the agglomeration and granulation of a wide range of raw materials: metals and ferro-alloys, steel mill by-products, coal, wood and biomass, rectification sludge, mineral fertilizers, premixes, etc. Until 2018, Euragglo was associated with the American group Komarek. Before a takeover by the German group Köppern, involved in the design and manufacture of briquetting systems, compaction-granulation and grinding by roller presses. Euragglo is also the representative in France of the companies Ruf and CF Nielsen, for hydraulic and mechanical presses for the production of cylindrical or parallelepipedic briquettes. The subsidiary, which has "kept its own entity" and has its own range of presses, explains Nina Ribals, marketing and communication assistant, relies on a design office, a construction workshop currently being doubled and a pilot station. The latter "allows customers to come and test their raw materials, binders, drying times, etc. We also carry out quality tests on granules and agglomerates (mechanical resistance, fall, etc.).

*Original article written by Ermeline Mouraud published in French in La Revue de l'Alimentation Animale, translated into English by Euragglo.*