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**Yves Lespinasse**

My name is Yves Lespinasse. I'm a researcher working in the Plant Breeding and Genetics Division of the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) in France and I'm currently carrying out research into the genetics and breeding of fruit varieties, more specifically, apple and pear.

Well, it's important to protect varieties, but this must be done in a way that attracts private partners. Nowadays, such partners are vital if we are to improve the way in which we carry out research and experimental work, as well as the commercialization of varieties. This relationship with the private sector means that we now perform much better in the market than previously when we didn't work with private firms.