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Water sampling in Nant Y Foel Ddu

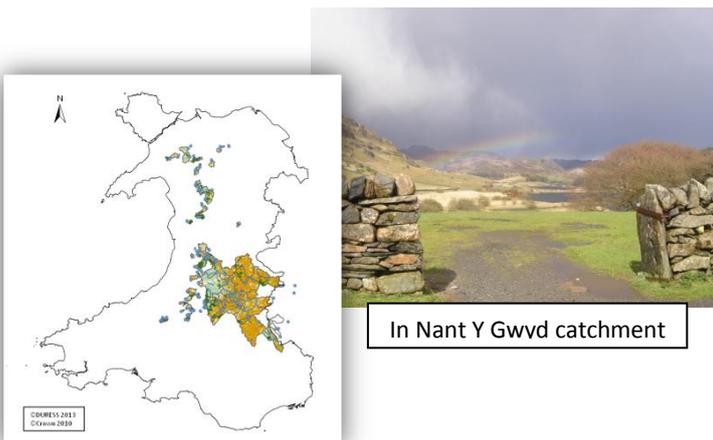
Coming from a village in middle of France I chose to study agronomy. For that I went to Paris where I spent two years in a school to prepare my admission to my current school, AgroParisTech (Paris Institute of Technology for Life, Food and Environmental Sciences). Most of the students stay there for three years to be graduated as an engineer (equivalence with a Master degree). I did my two first years, choosing a specialization called 'Production, sector and territory for sustainability'. Then I chose to take the opportunity to have one year to discover the professional world, to go abroad and to learn English doing placement periods. My last year will be the following one; I will specialize on plant production and plant breeding. I should be graduated in 2014 as an agronomist engineer.

Previously, I worked as a trial officer intern in France for Syngenta Seeds where I learnt about plant breeding and plant selection on a non common crop: the melon. Working for a big company but staying in a small sector was a great opportunity.

Then, I went to New Zealand where I worked as an intern at Lincoln University, in the Field Service Center. My supervisor was Dr Derrick Moot (Professor Plant Science). I took part on his research program about dryland pasture in New Zealand. I was mostly working on one species: Luzerne. The aim was to see what kind of inoculation is the most efficient for the production of this plant. The research is still ongoing. You can find out more about it on the following website: <http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/dryland>.



The river Ceirw



In Nant Y Gwvd catchment

Mapping Land Use in the catchments

And now, here I am, I arrived among the DURESS team in April for 5 months as an Erasmus student. My work here is linked with work package 1 which aims to investigate global and local changes and pressures on upland Welsh rivers and to develop scenarios of catchments land use and climate. I focus mainly on land use. The aim for me is to assess the constraints of the land (ownership, environmental protection, physical constraints) and this will be used to apply the scenarios to our catchments.