Terres en villes is an NGO network created in 2000 by six French cities willing to exchange their knowledge and mutualize their approaches in the fields of urban planning and agriculture. The founders wanted to make more visible the ongoing issues related to peri-urban agriculture and balanced relationships between the city and its agriculture.

Since 2007, Terres en villes started to tackle the issue of local food governance through several national and European projects. In 2015, the management board decided to better recognize the key role food can play in dealing with today’s territorial challenges. Terres en villes then became the “French local stakeholders’ network for agriculture and food policies”. And in 2017, the Executive board asked the network to take more into account the urban agriculture in its activities.

A co-construction between urban and agricultural world and an openness to the civil society is the essence of the Network. Today, it gathers 22 cities around France, each one jointly represented by the local authority and the Chamber of agriculture who are committed to working together. The charter network promotes sustainability and a cross sector approach of urbanism, agronomy and environment.
Terres en villes pursues three missions:
- Promote the know-how exchanges between its members,
- Stimulate experimentation,
- Enrich the debate on city, its agriculture and its food system.

These three missions are led in four categories of activities:
- The co-construction of agricultural and food policies,
- The protection and joint management of peri urban agriculture, forest and natural sites, l'économie agricole et la gouvernance alimentaire des agglomérations et métropoles,
- Agricultural economy and food governance in cities and metropolis,
- Europe and decentralised cooperation.

Terres en villes is a place for exchanges, discussions and debates, for co-producing knowledge and methodologies and developing new ideas.

For all those issues, Terres en villes builds a diagnosis within the network based on a regularly updated data base combined with targeted analysis. This diagnosis allows the construction of seminars and national meetings in order to facilitate exchanges between members. The analysis is then outlined (through technical recommendations) as well as the approach (through guides and methodological recommendations). New tools can therefore be tested and political recommendations formulated.

By favoring a dialogue between stakeholders and researchers, between France and other European countries, Terres en villes can provide analysis and original tools: peri urban agriculture charter, policies cross evaluation, integration of agriculture in planning tools, food planning approach.

Thanks to its intense activity, the network is today recognized both by the French rural network and the Ministry of agriculture and food and is the lead partner of the RnPAT project dedicated to the co construction of territorial food strategies (www.rnpat.fr).