



PROMOTING WELLBEING AT WORK

The commitment and satisfaction of a co-worker...

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Jean Hénaff group scientific director, co-worker for 30 years



Michel, who was a technical manager, which meant to become a research and development manager, working for purchases and quality control. They put their trust in me and it meant a lot to me as it was a very big challenge. All the technical aspects leaned on me and on Rachel. The two of us dealt with these missions for more than 25 years.

Why did you chose to join the Jean Hénaff company?

I chose to join the Hénaff company for three main reasons. First of all, it was a big challenge to me as in my previous position, I worked on research and development and here I was going to work on production. Then, just evocating its name, Hénaff was and still is a very famous brand and finally because it was a family business, that was essential to me.

In 30 years of time, you had the occasion to work with two generations of the Hénaff family, Jean-Jacques and then, his son, Loic. How can you describe, in a few words, the two managers?

To describe Jean-Jacques's personality I would use the words: perseverance, stubbornness, curiosity, humanity and humanism. Actually, I could use the same words to describe Loic Hénaff, I will add his capacity for adaptation which enables the company looking towards the future.

What are your best memories?

The point is that I have so many memories that I can't chose one of

them. Yet, I have one in mind which is a real story now and which means a lot to me. I joined the company in 1991 and at that time Jean-Jacques told me that I would have to work hard to launch, as soon as possible, a range of fresh sausages. In 1992, six months after I joined the company, he told me: "We are going together to the USA". I told myself that it was pretty cool joining the Hénaff company, it was a great challenge. We left one Sunday afternoon, from the airport of Pluguffan. My wife and my daughter dropped me off and wait with me until I left. Jean-Jacques was already waiting with his suitcase outside the airport. My wife and my daughter didn't know him yet. Suddenly, Jean-Jacques said he didn't remember where his passport and boarding pass were. He opened his suitcase, directly on the pavement, and unwrap all his stuff. I remember quite well at that moment, my wife and my daughter looked at me and asked "But is he really your boss?" I answered "Yes, he is my boss and he is an exceptional person".

Anything else to say?

The group must continue on its way with stubbornness, perseverance, patience, even if this last word isn't often used in the current society. History proves us that we sometimes have to be patient. We also have to act with care and find a way to make the difference.

What does a scientific director work on?

As a scientific director since 2015, I mainly work on medium and long-term projects. Before working on research and development missions, I work on collaborative projects, within the company but also with external partners. The topics are various: supporting the peppercorn cooperative of Sao Tomé, helping the GlobeXplore subsidiary regarding algae but also being a key player in major collaborative projects such as the partnership with the European Space Agency.

When did you join the Jean Hénaff company?

I joined the company in 1991, almost 30 years ago and worked until 1994 as a production manager for the Hénaff pork pâté, as fresh sausages did not exist yet. In 1994, Jean-Jacques asked me if I wanted to assume the duties of his oldest brother,