GAL 2014 BRIEF



DGAL IN BRIEF EDITION 2014



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DGAL in brief

Key words

food safety, food quality, food waste, animal
health and welfare, plant health and protection,
controls, inspections, regulations, veterinarians,
health crises, international trade,
agriculture, crops, livestock production,
fisheries, seeds, inputs, pesticides,
medicines, forests, etc.



in central administration and decentralised services supported by 14,000 public health veterinarians certified by the State, 30 national reference laboratories and about 150 specialized laboratories, mainly in the "départements". Each year, it provides more than 30,000 inspections on livestock, nearly 80,000 inspections in facilities working in the food chain, with more than 90,000 batches inspected on import.

A government body serving citizens

DGAL monitors the safety and quality of food at all stages of the food chain, as well as the health of animals and plants, and animal welfare in coordination with the State services in French "départements" and regions and the different stakeholders: professionals in the farming sector, associations, consumers, etc.

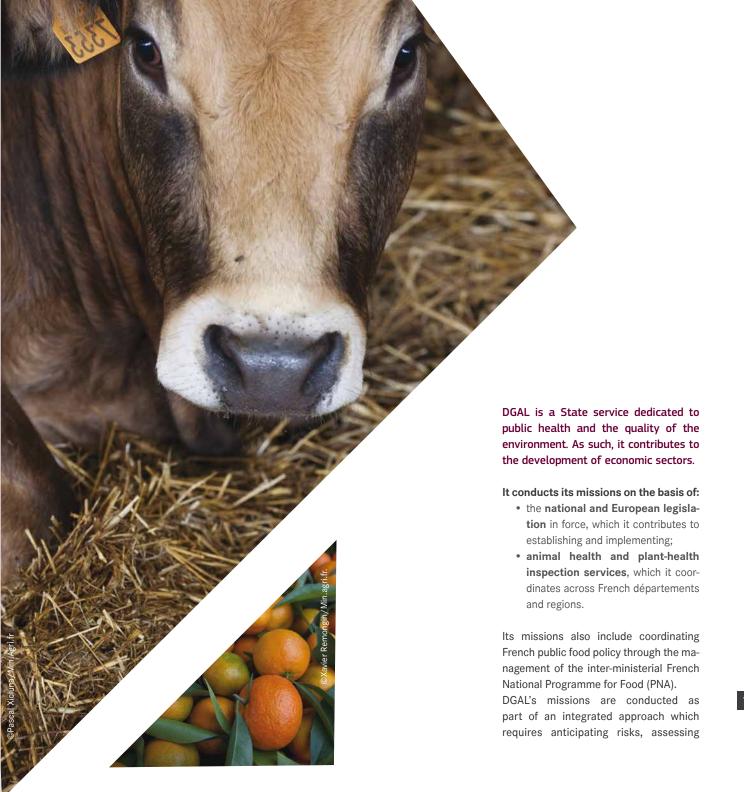
It establishes the legal provisions corresponding to its missions and controls their application with the support of the decentralised services.

On the international level, it promotes French models as regards food, public health and plant health.



OUR MAIN MISSIONS

To guarantee the health of citizens, animals, plants and the environment by ensuring the quality of the sanitary conditions in which animals, animal products, plants and plant products are produced and introduced into the market or imported into the country.











them and forecasting their development. This is why the monitoring systems managed by DGAL, and which make it possible to take preventive measures, are particularly useful. Ensuring food safety requires constantly adjusting the organisation of the systems in place and their operation, on a national and international level. This involves frequent consultations with other national administra-

tions responsible for those missions. The significant increase of international trade, the emergence of new pathogens that affect humans, animals or plants, the emergence of harmful organisms and climate changes make it vital to adopt a more international view of sanitary risks linked to the trading of animals, plants, and, particularly, food. The issues raised are complex and re-

quire integrated, cross-functional risk management, drawing on different organisational, scientific and technical skills. The guarantees provided to citizens must be based on a relationship of trust, which supposes that communication about risks must be structured, constant, responsive and transparent, in accordance with international principles for risk analysis.



DGAL monitors the quality and safety of food at each stage of the food chain, from the raw materials necessary for growing plants and breeding of livestock to the moment the food is sold to the consumer.

The scope of DGAL's activities is vast:

- the health and protection of animals and plants;
- the safety and quality of food;
- the drafting of **regulations** and monitoring of their application;
- nation-wide surveillance;
- the management of food-related safety alerts;
- certification for exportation;
- the promotion of practices that are more respectful of public health and the environment;
- the control of imports.

On a national level, DGAL drafts the legal provisions corresponding to its missions; it contributes to the establishment of European Union regulations and is responsible for their implementation on a national level. It is supported by decentralised services in French départements and regions.

On the international level, it promotes French food, public health and plant health models. Around 4,800 full-time equivalent are involved in implementing this programme; they are responsible for inspecting more than 400,000 facilities where foodstuffs are handled (distribution, food service sector) and more than 500,000 farms.

They are supported by 30 national reference laboratories and over a hundred specialised analytical laboratories, in collaboration with other State services.

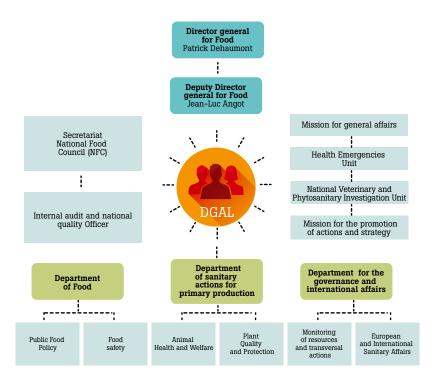


OUR ORGANISATION

DGAL has 3 departments which carry out technical functions:

- The first department is responsible for primary production, animal health and welfare, plant health, including forests and agricultural inputs (veterinary drugs, pesticides, seeds, GMOs, animal feed): this is the Department of sanitary actions for primary production;
- The second department is responsible for food: the Department of food is in charge of French national food policy and the safety of food of animal origin;
- The third department is responsible for international affairs, imports and exports of animals, plants, products of animal origin and animal feed. It also coordinates cross-functional activities for the other technical departments (budget, human resources, laboratory operations, organisation of the information systems, etc.): it is called the Department for governance and international affairs in the food and sanitary sector.

Simplified organisational structure



DGAL also carries out other cross-functional missions as regards:

- the management of sanitary emergencies on a national level or concerning import/export (outbreaks of diseases, non-compliance of food of animal origin, animal feed);
- the fight against organised crime in the sanitary area, through the DGAL's investigation unit:
- the quality management of the inspection organisation, made up of the DGAL and its services in the field:
- performance optimisation;
- the promotion of actions and strategy.
- To consult the complete organisational chart: http://agriculture.gouv.fr/administration-centrale

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Operational authority over the decentralised services

To carry out its missions, DGAL is supported by technical services managed by the Prefects of the different French départements and regions. DGAL has operational authority over these services and regularly sends them instructions.

Who are DGAL's main contacts in the regions and départements?

On the regional level, the Regional Directorates for Food, Agriculture and Forestry (DRAAF) are DGAL's «correspondents».

The Regional Food Department (SRAL) of the DRAAF is in charge of policies and financial resources of the French budget programme 206 concerning «the safety and quality of food» in a given region.

On the département level, DGAL's contacts are either the Inter-ministerial Directorates, the 42 DDPPs (Departmental Directorates for the Protection of the Population) or the 46 DDCSPPs (Departmental Directorates for Social Cohesion and the Protection of the Population) depending on the départements. These governmental bodies are in charge of food, animal and plant safety on a local level.



Since the re-organisation in 2010, their technical missions are as follows:

To protect public health:

The DD(CS)PP verifies the application of regulations aiming to fight against animal diseases that are transmissible to humans. It monitors food safety and hygiene controls and implements preventive actions against the risk of food contamination.

It carries out inspections and monitors companies' self-controls. Moreover, it implements annual targeted surveillance programmes (with a random or oriented sampling) to check for potential food contamination.

To protect animal health:

The DD(CS)PP constantly monitors all major animal diseases. Any suspect conditions or outbreaks of animal diseases immediately trigger a pre-established operational control plan (emergency plans).

To protect plant health:

With regional services, the DD(CS)PP also conducts a number of missions to protect plant health and monitor phytosanitary products.

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OUR INSTITUTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT



A constantly evolving legislative framework

DGAL operates within a legislative framework that takes into account national, European and international regulations.

he national legislative and regulatory framework includes the French Rural and Maritime Fishing Code, the Public health Code, the Environmental Code and the Consumer Code, whose provisions are largely derived from European and international legal texts. It particularly draws on the International

Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Codex Alimentarius, and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The regulatory texts governing the DGAL's operations are regularly reviewed and amended to take into account advances in technical and scientific under-standing in the field of health, as well as society's and people's expectations. Certain actions are part of a European-wide programme and are co-funded by the European Union: in particular, operations concerning the fight against BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) and scrapie.

An inter-ministerial and European collaboration to ensure food quality and safety

Sanitary inspection missions are carried out in collaboration with the different central and decentralised services of the French Ministry of Economy (fraud prevention) and of the Ministry of Health.

ach year, DGAL implements a series of targeted surveillance programmes (with random or oriented sampling) concerning food of animal and/or plant origin and animal feed. These are an essential indicator regarding food safety and also contribute to promoting French food and agricultural products in the export market.

This control policy is harmonised at European level to ensure a high level of food safety within the single European market.

The technical expertise for drawing up these plans (knowledge of contaminants and/or products that may be subject to contaminations) is provided by the different sub-directorates of DGAL.

As early as the design stage, these targeted surveillance programmes are established in coordination with the other ministries involved in food safety (DGCCRF [French Directorate General for Competition, Consumption and Fraud

Prevention], DGS [French Directorate General for Health]) and with the French risk assessment organisations (ANSES - the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety and InVS - the French Institute for Public Health Surveillance).

Some of DGAL's actions are coordinated with other public policies, such as those concerning higher education and research in agriculture.

How the expertise is broken down as regards the organisation of inspections and the management of alerts

Three French ministries are in charge of food inspections

DGAL (Ministry of Agriculture, Agro

animal products or products of animal origin and food made of plants before harvest, residues of veterinary drugs in all types of food products; control of GM organisms, in particular imported seeds:

DGCCRF (Ministry in charge of the Economy):

additives, GMOs, allergenic agents, unauthorised substances (e.g. melamine), materials in contact with any type of food (animal or plant origin);

DGS (Ministry in charge of Socia Affairs and Health):

all food products, if the population is affected («human cases») or when a significant risk is identified.





Improved governance

Following the French Sanitary Summit (EGS) in 2010, a new organisation lead to optimising the governance and funding of the animal and plant sanitary policies.

organisation is to promote and optimise all the available skills in order to better coordinate the surveillance and control measures of the different anlimal diseases and plant pests.

It is now possible to prioritise sanitary risks and hence the resources allocated by the State or professional organisations according to the gravity of the risk.

Category I risks concern serious threats to public health or major risks to the environment or French production capacities. To safeguard general national interests, these situations require the implementation of compulsory prevention, surveillance or control measures.

Category II risks concern threats to the economy of one or several sectors which may require the implementation of collective prevention, surveillance and control programs.

Finally, Category III risks require measures that remain within the scope of private initiative.

New consultative bodies have been created as regards animal and plant health policies (the CNOPSAV: French National Council for the Orientation of the Animal and Plant Health Policy and its regional offices: CROPSAVs) and the conditions for recognition of operational structures responsible for working with the State to monitor, prevent and control animal diseases and plant pests have been redefined.

Surveillance tools mobilizing all the stakeholders have been created (Platform for epidemiological surveillance in animal health, network for biological surveillance of the territory) to address emerging or re-emerging sanitary risks. As regards the prevention, surveillance and control of sanitary risks, the State and the sectors' professionals can call upon the services of bodies that must comply with precise criteria (sanitary bodies (OVS), Technically-Oriented Veterinary Organisations (OVVT)). Regional Sanitary Associations (ASR) propose sanitary programs requiring collective organisation and training tools to support private initiatives.

For more information: http://agriculture. gouv.fr/conseils-comites



OUR RESPONSE TO SOCIETY'S EXPECTATIONS:

THE MANAGEMENT OF AMBITIOUS PROGRAMS

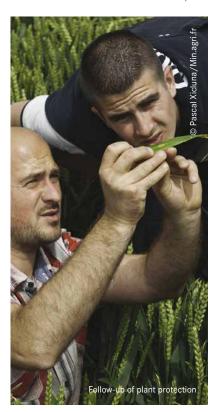


PRODUISONS OAUTREMENT

« Agricultures: Let's produce differently "

As part of its missions, DGAL contributes to implementing ecological farming practices and is actively involved in the «Agriculture: Produisons autrement» ("let's produce differently") programme, through the following three plans: «Ecophyto», «Ecoantibio» and «Seeds and Sustainable Agriculture».

For more information about the «Let's produce differently» program: http://agriculture.gouv.fr/Produisons-autrement



Ecophyto Plan

Reducing the use of phyto-pharmaceutical products is a major public health challenge as well as an environmental, social and economic challenge.

It is being implemented in the perspective of a better control of plant production sanitary risks, including the protection of users, neighbours and consumers.

The «Ecophyto» plan aims to decrease dependency on phyto-pharmaceutical products in France, while preserving ecologically and economically effective farming and

responding to consumer expectations in terms of quality and quantity. It is managed by the French Ministry of Agriculture. Its different components are implemented by **several ministries**, depending on the expertise required and the responsibilities involved: ecology, economy, health, overseas territories, research.

Despite numerous achievements regarding operational actions, the expected results have not been met. The minister in charge of agriculture, Stéphane Le Foll, announced new orientations for the Ecophyto

Plan on January 30, 2015. Accordingly, a new Plan is being prepared and will be released in June 2015.

The Ecophyto plan mobilizes the entire food supply chain: companies, traders, cooperatives, agricultural consultants, farmers, and other stakeholders, such as consumer and environmental protection associations, local authorities, public services, etc. are all actively involved.

Por mo	re information:
http://agr	iculture.gouv.fr/
ecophyto	~~~~~~

ÉCOANTIBIO RÉDUIRE L'UTILISATION DES ANTIBIOTIQUES VÉTÉRINAIRES





Ecoantibio Plan

esistance to antibiotics, which appeared a few years ago, reduces the available treatment options for certain pathologies. Fighting against resistance to antibiotics is one of the century's major challenges in terms of animal and public health. A national action plan for reducing the risk of resistance to antibiotics in veterinary medicine has been established for 2012-2017. Numerous consultations with representatives of professional agricultural and veterinary organi-

sations, scientists and representatives from veterinary pharmaceutical laboratories took place. This plan is consistent with the 2011-2016 national alert plan concerning antibiotics (managed by the French Ministry for Health) and with the European Commission's action plan aimed at combating the growing threat of resistance to antimicrobial agents. The plan foresses a careful and reasonable use of antibiotics: only strictly necessary and appropriate amounts of these treatments should

be prescribed and administratered to animals. The «Ecoantibio» plan aims to reduce the use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine by 25% in 5 years. In addition to the quantitative aspect, the plan foresees particular efforts to reduce the use of «critically important» antibiotics, i.e. those that are essential in human medicine, especially in veterinary medicine.

© For more information: http://agriculture.gouv.fr/ lutte-contre-l-antibioresistance

"Seeds and sustainable agriculture" Plan

he seed sector is the first stage in agricultural and production. The availability of quality seeds and seed varieties that are adapted to French agricultural land and to farmer and consumer expectations is the first guarantee as regards our country's food security, in terms of quality and quantity. France is the largest producer and consumer of seeds in

Europe. On a worldwide level, France is the 3rd largest market, after the USA and China, and the 2nd largest seed exporter in the world.

In order to consolidate the country's position in this sector, a 7-points plan has been established to ensure the preservation and dissemination of genetic resources (point 1), the implementation of environment assessment criteria regarding varie-

ties in accordance with the «Ecophyto» plan (point 4), the certification of seeds (point 5), and the promotion of national efforts regarding the reform of the European Community framework (point 7).

© For more information: http://agriculture.gouv.fr/ IMG/pdf/Semences__agriculture_durable_rapport_2012_cle8754f1.pdf



Public food policy

he new public food policy aims to safeguard the French food and nutrition model, which largely prevents against the obesity epidemic that is affecting all western countries. It plays an important role in terms of justice and social cohesion. It aims to meet growing consumer expectations and to contribute to preser-

ving the competitiveness of the French agricultural and food-production sector, which provides an outlet for 70% of French agricultural produce, preserves jobs and contributes to the development of rural areas.

The policy is outlined in the French national food programme.

Management of the National Food Programme



*Our model is for the future

n conjunction with the different ministries concerned, DGAL manages the new French National Food Programme (PNA) which sets out the public food policy decided upon by the government.

The priority actions are the following:

- · social justice;
- young people, the policy's priority target;
- the promotion of the policy in local communities;
- the fight against food waste.

For more information: http://alimentation.gouv.fr/pna-2

OUR ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME





The fight against illegal activities in the field of public health is a cross-functional mission conducted by DGAL, supporting the sanitary inspection actions conducted by the decentralised services.

The Investigation Unit

he French National Veterinary and Phytosanitary Investigation Unit (BNEVP) is a special body that operates across the country. This strike force can be mobilized for emergencies. It focuses on fighting against organised crime.

The BNEVP conducts investigations as part of the fight against organised crime in the sanitary field and provides the inspection services with technical support, particularly in crisis situations.

The remit of the BNEVP covers all veterinary and phytosanitary fields. The unit's operations therefore concern the services in charge of public health, animal health and welfare as well as the services in charge of plant protection.

In operational terms, the BNEVP's missions are divided into three categories:

- fighting against organised crime in the veterinary and phytosanitary fields;
- conducting national investigations on behalf of DGAL;
- providing the sanitary inspection services with technical support.

The BNEVP provides support to judicial, police and customs authorities and to all administrations which participate in fighting against illegal activities in the sanitary field.

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OUR ROLE IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Crisis management is a cross-functional mission conducted by DGAL, supporting the sanitary inspection actions conducted by the decentralised services.

The Health Emergencies Unit

GAL's Health Emergencies Unit is in charge of managing alerts, emergencies and sanitary crises, particularly concerning food-related issues under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The alerts are triggered by the inspections made by the sanitary authorities, the ownchecks controls made by the food business operators, tests carried out by veterinarians (for animal health), or consumer complaints, etc. Other alert situations are triggered by cases of sick people, where the suspected origin of the infection is due to food (food poisoning) or contact with animals.

When an alert is triggered, it results in different types of investigations and measures regarding the products and/or the animals.

DGAL manages food-related alerts concerning products of animal origin and foodstuffs containing animal ingredients (whether leading to human health problems such as food poisoning or not), concerning plants which have not yet been harvested

and concerning animal feed containing ingredients of animal origin. It also manages alerts concerning animal and plant health. Food-related alerts concerning plant foodstuffs after harvest, products in contact with food and dietary foods are managed by DGCCRF (the French Directorate General for Competition, Consumption and Repression of Fraud). The management of alerts is conducted in liaison with national, European and international alert networks. DGAL (Health Emergencies Unit) is one of the two national contact points for the European RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) network, and the national contact point for its international equivalent INFOSAN Emergency (International Food Safety Authorities Network).

E.Coli bacteria

The Health Emergencies Unit is also responsible for developing and monitoring the operational tools and documents required to manage the alerts and sanitary crises. In particular, it is in charge of monitoring national emergency plans and the training exercises conducted in this field.

What is an alert?

OUR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Links with European and international bodies

GAL is responsible for monitoring work carried by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as part of the agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS agreement). This international agreement aims to facilitate trade by reducing the number of unjustified sanitary and phytosanitary barriers, while recognising each country's right to adopt measures for the protection of human, animal and plant health.

In addition, DGAL participates in the activities of the Codex Alimentarius (FAO/WHO), the World Organisa-

tion for Animal Health (OIE). the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC, FAO) and the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO); this involves drafting international sanitary standards recognised by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), monitoring the geographic distribution of animal diseases and organisms that are harmful to plants, and promoting safe and effective control measures.

DGAL is also involved in the work carried by European Union institutions (Council, Parliament, Commission and Court of Justice): preparation

of the Council of Ministers (sanitary component), participation in meetings with Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO) and Chief Phytosanitary Officers (CPO), in the Commission's and Council's expert groups, in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH), in the standing committee for phytosanitary matters and the standing committees on seeds and propagating material.

As the French adminis-trative authority in charge of managing the policy on genetic crop improvements, the control of seeds and the intellectual property system for protecting new plant varieties, DGAL participates in the work of the UPOV (the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) particularly in order to promote this intellectual property protection system, as regards patent holders and its dissemination in non-European community countries.

DGAL also monitors the application of bilateral agreements concluded between the European Union and non-EU States on sanitary and phytosanitary issues, making it possible to go beyond the requirements of the SPS agreement (particularly taking into account animal welfare).



OUR RESOURCES



Human resources

n terms of central administration,
DGAL employs around 215 officers.
The decentralised services, which
make up DGAL's inspection organisation, employ around 4,800 full-time
equivalent divided among the Regional
Directorates for Food, Agriculture and
Forestry (DRAAF) and the Departmental

Directorates for the Protection of the Population, DDPP and DDCSPP in mainland France, or the Directorates for Food, Agriculture and Forestry (DAAF) in overseas départements. DGAL works closely with the network of general inspectors responsible for supporting staff and structures (IGAPS).

Ongoing occupational training for staff: an essential tool for maintaining high-level expertise

GAL has implemented a proactive training policy to meet the skills requirements of its officers. This

is essential for keeping up with developments in the health inspection field..

A network organisation

GAL also draws on the support of decentralised technical networks in the French regions and départements. They provide DGAL's overall ins-

pection organisation with specific expertise and technical skills. These networks are made up of technical advisors, experts and back-up human resources.

ACTION NUMBER AND TITLE	OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTION	BUDGET *
Action 1: Prevention and management of risks inherent to plant production	Ensures plant production conditions that guarantee public health and plant protection.	21.2
Action 2: Fight against animal diseases and animal welfare	Aims to ensure the control of animal diseases that are dangerous for humans and/or the economy of the breeding sector, to monitor the correct use of substances administered to animals and to ensure that animal living conditions and treatment comply with the rules regarding the proper treatment of livestock and pets.	106
Action 3: Prevention and management of risks linked to foodstuffs	Covers all official inspection actions regarding sanitary conditions for production, import and sale of food from animal origin and the early detection of food-related health risks.	15
Action 4: Acquisition and mobilization of scientific and technical resources to control sanitary risks	Corresponds, largely, to the subsidy allocated to ANSES and new missions: State-region contract concerning the nutritional and sanitary quality of products.	69.7
Action 5: Elimination of meat and bone meal and animal by-products	Covers expenses linked to public service rendering.	2
Action 6: Implementation of the food safety and quality policy	Covers costs for staff and decentralised service operation. Action 6 also covers staff costs for officers in DD(CS)PP, DRAAF/ SRAL and DAAF/SAL.	285.3
Action 8: Food quality and food offer	Contributes to the implementation of the food policy and the National Food and Nutrition Programme.	3.8
TOTAL		503

The budget

he Director General for Food is responsible for budget program n°206 concerning **«the sanitary safety and quality of food»** which is part of ministerial mission for **«Agriculture, fisheries, food, forestry and rural affairs.»** Programme 206 is divided into seven actions and mainly covers budget allocations related to staff and operations.

Total cost of sanitary inspections:

300 million euros

Turnover of the food sector (production, transformation) monitored by DGAL:

270 billion euros approximately

Turnover of the food distribution sector, approximately:

220 billion euros

Trade surplus of the agro-food sector:

9.2 billion euros



Quality management system

n the past, DGAL has demonstrated the skills of its staff [inspectors] and the reliability of its inspections, in particular through its third party accreditation.

In order to extend this approach to all DGAL's activities, an **important evolution** based on a quality management system and a process approach (ISO 9001) are being implemented. It consists of identifying, describing and implementing the different processes on which DGAL's activities are based **in order to permanently improve their quality**.

FNE (France Nature Environnement) French nature and environmental protection NGO

FVO Food and Veterinary Office

GDS France (Groupements de défense sanitaire France) French livestock farmers' association

IAA (Industries agroalimentaires) Agri-food industries

IARC The International Agency for Research on Cancer

ICA (Information sur la chaîne alimentaire) Information on the Food Chain

IGAPS (Ingénieurs généraux d'appui aux personnes et aux structures) General Inspectors Responsible for Supporting People and Organisations

IGAS (Inspection générale des affaires sociales) French Inspectorate General for Social Affairs

IGF (Inspection générale des finances) French Finance Inspectorate

INRA (Institut national de recherche agronomique) French National Institute for Agricultural Research

InVS (Institut de veille sanitaire) French Institute for Public Health Surveillance

IPPC International Plant Protection Convention

ISPM International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures

ITA (institut technique agricole) agricultural technical institute

ITIA (institut technique et agro-industriel) Agro-industrial technical institute

LSV (Laboratoire de la santé des végétaux) Plant Health Laboratory

MAAF (Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'agroalimentaire et de la forêt) French Ministry of Agriculture, Agro-Food and Forestry

OCLAESP (Office Central de Lutte contre les Atteintes à l'Environnement et à la Santé Publique) Central Office for the Prevention of Damage to the Environment and Public Health

OIE World Organisation for Animal Health

ONFCS (Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage) French National Hunting and Wild Fauna Association

ONPV (Journées nationales de l'Organisation nationale de la protection des végétaux) National plant protection event

OVS (organisations à vocation sanitaires) Sanitary Service Organisations

OVVT (organisations vétérinaires à vocation techniques) Technically-oriented Veterinary Organisations

PNA (Programme National pour l'Alimentation) French National Food Programme

PNSE (Plan national santé environnement) French National Health and Environment Plan

RFSV (Réseau français de la santé des végétaux) French Plant Health Network

SCC (Société centrale canine) Central Canine Society

SCFCAH European Union Standing Committees on the Food Chain and Animal Health

SIAL (Salon International de l'Alimentation) International Food Exhibition

SIMV (Syndicat de l'industrie du médicament vétérinaire et réactif) Union of the Veterinary and Reactive Drug Industry

SNVEL (Syndicat national des vétérinaires d'exercice libéral) French national veterinary union

SNGTV (Société nationale des groupements techniques vétérinaires) French National Society of Veterinary Technical Groups

SPIE (Système d'information professionnel sur l'élevage) Professional Livestock-rearing Information System **SRAL** (Service régional de l'alimentation) Regional Food Department



Editorial content

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