

**FRENCH
GENERAL
DIRECTORATE
FOR FOOD (DGAL)**

**ACTIVITY
REPORT**

THE DGAL IN BRIEF 2017




**MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DE
L'ALIMENTATION**

FRENCH GENERAL
DIRECTORATE FOR FOOD (DGAL)

ACTIVITY
REPORT

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THE DGAL IN BRIEF

KEYWORDS

FOOD SAFETY, FOOD QUALITY, FOOD WASTE, ANIMAL HEALTH AND PROTECTION, PLANT HEALTH AND PROTECTION, CONTROLS, INSPECTIONS, REGULATIONS, VETERINARIANS, SANITARY CRISES, INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AGROECOLOGY, MAJOR FIELD CROPS, LIVESTOCK FARMING, FISHERIES, SEEDS, INPUTS, PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS, MEDICINES, FORESTS, ETC.

THE DGAL HAS NEARLY **4,800** STAFF AT CENTRAL AND DECENTRALISED LEVELS AND WORKS WITH **14,000** GOVERNMENT-APPROVED SANITARY VETERINARIANS, **30** NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORIES AND APPROXIMATELY **150** SPECIALIST TEST LABORATORIES, THE MAJORITY ATTACHED TO TERRITORIAL *DÉPARTEMENTS*. EVERY YEAR: MORE THAN **30,000** INSPECTIONS ON LIVESTOCK FARMS, ALMOST **55,000** INSPECTIONS OF FOOD CHAIN ESTABLISHMENTS, AND OVER **90,000** BATCHES INSPECTED ON IMPORT.



A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT AT THE SERVICE OF THE CITIZEN

The DGAL exercises oversight of food safety and quality at every stage in the food supply chain, in addition to the health and protection of both animals and plants, working in conjunction with the various stakeholders: farming professionals, veterinarians, non-profit associations, consumers, and others.

It draws up the regulations that govern its core tasks and verifies their proper application, working through decentralised services in France's *départements* and regions.

At EU and international levels, the DGAL promotes France's food, sanitary and phytosanitary models. ■

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OUR CORE TASKS

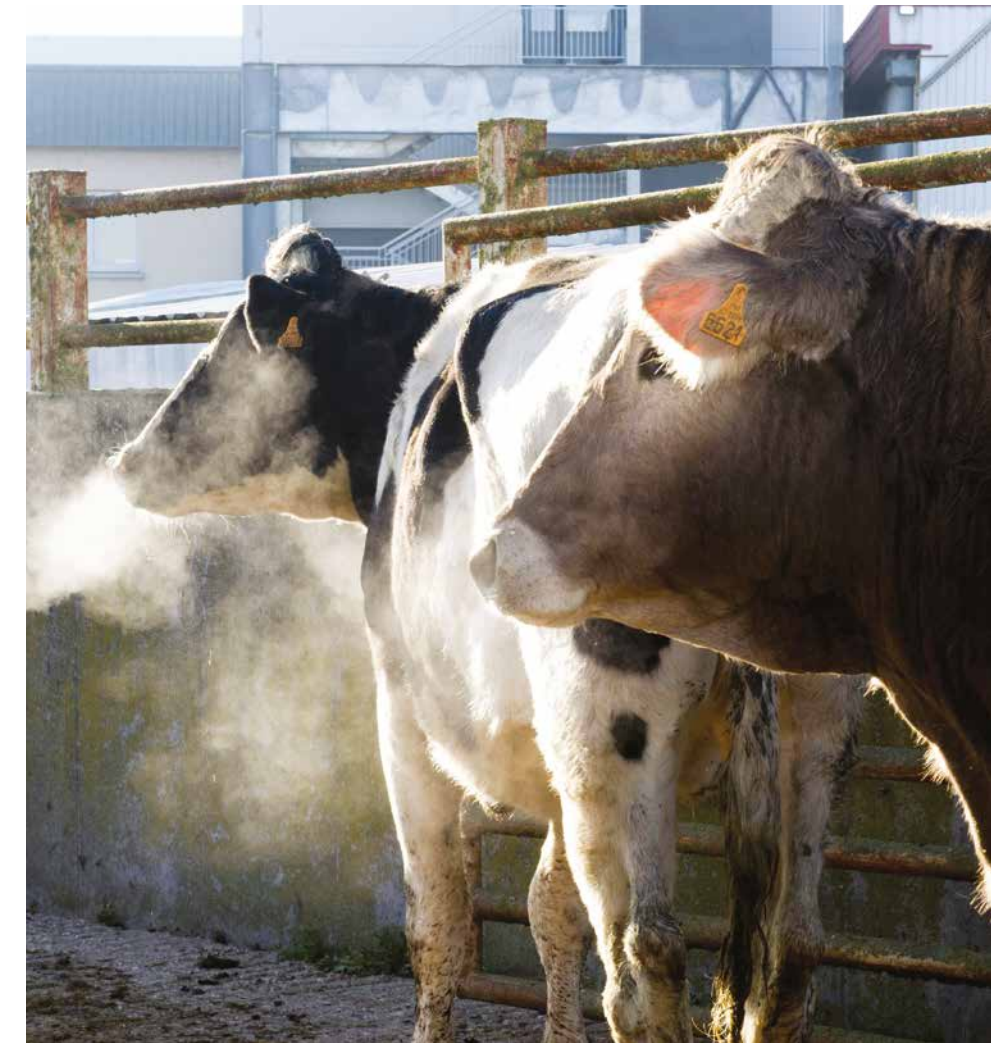
Protecting the health of consumers, animals, plants and the environment by defining and verifying the sanitary conditions in which animal and plant products are produced, placed on the market or brought into the country.

The DGAL is a government department dedicated to protecting food safety, plant health and animal health and welfare. It contributes to food security and sector competitiveness.

It carries out its core tasks by means of:

- the applicable European and national regulations it helps define and implement,
- inspection services for public, phytosanitary and veterinary health it coordinates in France's *départements* and regions.

Its core tasks also include coordination of food policy and steering the **National Food Programme (PNA)** entrusted to it. Tasks are



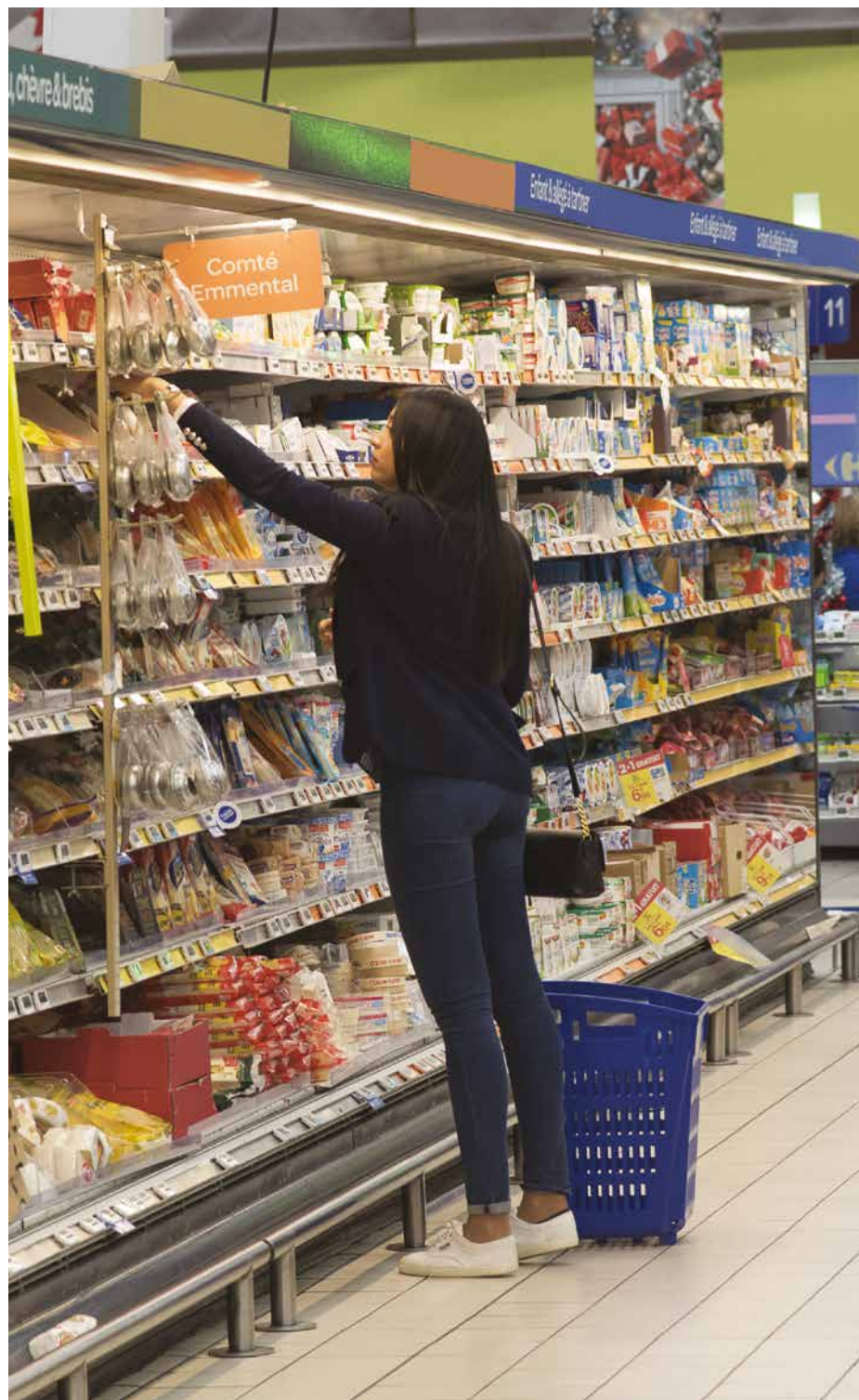
carried out using an integrated approach requiring anticipation of risks, their assessment and **implementation of appropriate control measures, as well as planning for changes in the latter.**

This explains the particular relevance of the surveillance systems driven by the DGAL, systems to

allow the taking of preventive action.

Major expansion in global trade, the emergence of new human, animal and plant pathogens, harmful organisms and a changing climate all make inevitable the adoption of a **more international vision of the sanitary risks** relating to trade in animals and plants.

The complexity of the issues raised requires **integrated, transverse risk management** employing a range of technical, scientific and organisational techniques. The guarantees provided to consumers are part of a relationship of trust that presupposes, in accordance with international risk analysis principles, objective and transparent communication on risk. ■



The DGAL exercises oversight of the quality and safety of food at every stage in the food chain from the raw materials necessary for growing plants and raising livestock up to and including delivery of food to consumers.

The scope of its activities is extremely wide:

- animal and plant health and protection;
- food safety and quality;
- definition of regulations and verification of their observance;

- surveillance over national territory;
- management of food-related sanitary alerts;
- export certification;
- promotion of practices more protective of public health and the environment;
- import controls;
- seeds.

Nationally, the DGAL defines the legal framework appropriate to its core tasks. It participates in building European Union regulations and is responsible for transposing them into national law. **It is reliant on decentralised services in**

France's regions (DRAAF) and départements (DD(CS)PP).

Internationally, it promotes French food, sanitary and phytosanitary models.

It employs approximately 4,800 FTEs (Full Time Equivalent posts): this workforce inspects over 400,000 establishments involved in handling food (retail distribution, catering) and more than 500,000 agricultural holdings.

It makes use of the services of 30 national reference laboratories and around 150 specialist test laboratories. ■

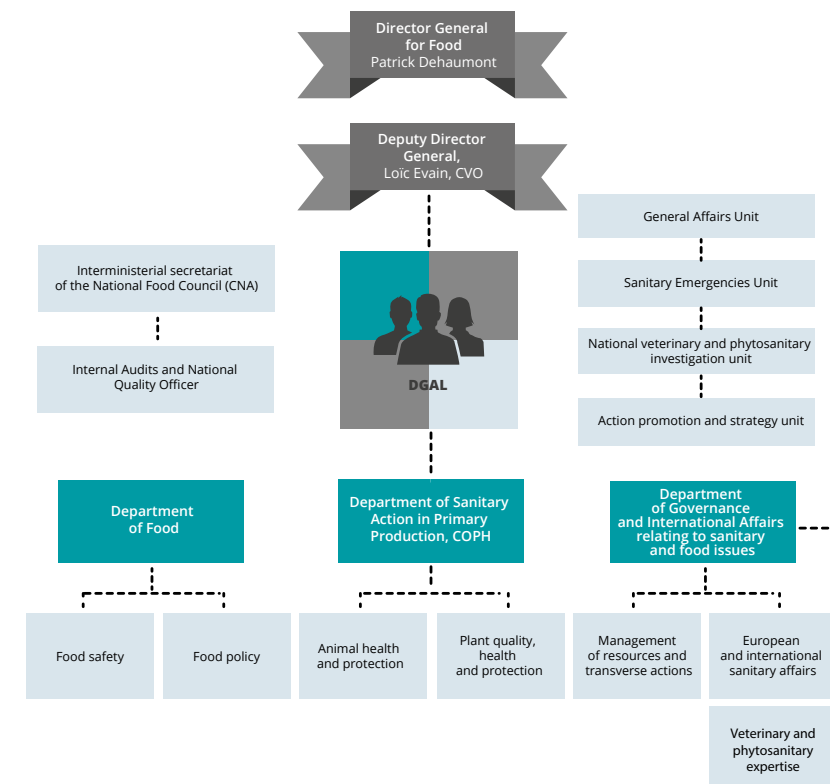
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OUR ORGANISATION

THE DGAL HAS THREE DEPARTMENTS TO MANAGE ITS TECHNICAL FUNCTIONS

- One is dedicated to primary production, animal health and protection, plant health, including forests, and inputs used in agriculture (veterinary medicines, plant protection products, seeds, GMOs, animal feed): this is the “Department of Sanitary Action in Primary Production”;
- The Food Department is responsible for national policy on food and the safety of foodstuffs of animal origin;
- The third department is responsible for international affairs, imports and exports of animals, plants and foodstuffs of animal origin and animal feed, plus coordination of transverse activities benefiting the other technical functions (budget, human resources, expertise, laboratory operations, general organisation of information systems, etc.): this is the “Department of Governance and International Affairs relating to sanitary and food issues”. ■

A SIMPLIFIED ORGANISATION CHART



OTHER TRANSVERSE TASKS ARE ALSO CARRIED OUT BY THE DGAL:

- management of all sanitary emergencies at national level or concerning import/export (disease outbreaks, non-compliance relating to foodstuffs of animal origin, animal feed);
- combating organised crime in the sanitary domain using an investigations unit;
- quality-led management of the DGAL as an entity comprising the DGAL and field services;
- optimisation of performance;
- promotion of the actions conducted and strategy. ■

The full organisation chart can be found at: <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/administration-centrale>

In order to carry out its core tasks, the DGAL is reliant on government services placed under the authority of the Prefects in France's territorial *départements* and regions. The DGAL has operational authority over those services and constantly interacts with them. The administrative organisation of the new regions in place from early 2016 has led to major changes in modes of operation.

THEIR CORE TECHNICAL TASKS

Protecting public health

The DD(CS)PPs verify the application of regulations directed at combating diseases of animal origin that are transmissible to human beings. They maintain a watch over food safety and proper control of food hygiene, conducting preventive programmes for food contamination risks.

They carry out inspections and follow up on self-inspections on farms

OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY OVER DECENTRALISED SERVICES

THE DGAL'S MAIN CHANNELS IN THE FRENCH REGIONS AND TERRITORIAL DÉPARTEMENTS

At regional level, the regional directorates for food, agriculture and forestry (DRAAF) act as the DGAL's "correspondents" (the DAAFs are the equivalent in France's overseas territories).

The regional departments for food (SRAL) in the DRAAFs (or

SALIMs in the DAAFs) are in charge of policy and financial resources for budget programme 206 "Food Safety and Quality" in each region.

At territorial *département* level, the DGAL works through the interministerial directorates, the 42 *departmental* directorates for protection of the public (DDPPs) or the 46 departmental directorates for social cohesion and protection of the public (DD(CS)PP), depending on the *département* concerned. ■

and in agrifood businesses, implementing annual food contamination surveillance and inspection plans.



The results of the above plans can be found at: agriculture.gouv.fr/plans-de-surveillance-et-de-controle

Protecting animal health and welfare

The DD(CS)PPs provide constant surveillance for the major animal

diseases. Any suspicion or notification of those diseases triggers a predetermined set of control measures (emergency plans). This was the case in 2017 for bluetongue and avian influenza.

Protecting plant health

The DRAAFs also have a number of core sanitary protection tasks for plants (e.g. combating *Xylella fastidiosa*) and the control of plant protection products. ■

3

OUR INSTITUTIONAL AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT

A LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK SUBJECT TO REGULAR ADJUSTMENT

The DGAL performs its core tasks in a legislative environment that is national, European and international.

The national body of legislative and regulatory provisions comprises the rural, maritime fisheries, public health, environmental, and consumer codes of law, a large part of which originates in European and international instruments. It draws particular inspiration from the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Codex Alimentarius and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The regulatory texts on which DGAL relies are reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis to take account of evolving scientific and technical knowledge in the sanitary sphere, as well as of society's expectations.

Some DGAL actions are programmed at European level and are jointly financed with the European Union: notable among these are operations to control the principal animal and plant diseases. ■



INTERMINISTERIAL AND EUROPEAN COLLABORATION

Sanitary inspection tasks are performed in conjunction with the various central and decentralised departments of the Ministry of the Economy (competition policy, consumer affairs and fraud control) and the Ministry of Health.

Every year, the DGAL implements a series of surveillance plans and inspection plans to detect microbiological or chemical contamination in foodstuffs of plant and/or animal origin and in animal feed. Those

plans represent a key food safety indicator and are also a source of value-added for French exports of farm and agrifood products.

This control policy is harmonised at EU level in order to guarantee a high level of sanitary safety in the single market.

The technical skills needed for the preparation of the above plans (knowledge of contaminants and/or products vulnerable to contamination) are spread across the various DGAL subdirectorates.

The whole set of surveillance and inspection plans (PSPC) is coordinated right from the design stage

On average, 50 dossiers are submitted to ANSES by the DGAL each year.

with the other ministries involved in food safety (DGCCRF, DGS) and the risk assessment agencies (ANSES, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety, and the InVS – now “Santé Publique France”).

Some DGAL activities link up with other public policies, for example those on higher education and agricultural research. ■

The results of these plans can be found at: agriculture.gouv.fr/plans-de-surveillance-et-de-contrôle

ALLOCATION OF POWERS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF INSPECTIONS AND ALERT MANAGEMENT

Three ministries are responsible for food inspections in the event of a sanitary alert:

The DGAL (Ministry of Agriculture and Food): animal products, products of animal origin and foodstuffs containing them, plants prior to harvest, residues of veterinary medicines in all products; control of GMOs, and especially imported seeds;

The DGCCRF (Ministry responsible for the Economy): products of plant origin; special foods (dietary products, infant milk, etc.); additives, GMOs, allergens, unauthorised substances (e.g. melamine) and materials in contact with food in the case of all products (animal or plant);

The DGS (Ministry of Solidarity and Health): all products (water) if people are affected (“human cases”) or where a major risk is present.

SANITARY GOVERNANCE: PROGRESS TO DATE

An organisation for animal and plant health deployed to serve public health and the competitiveness of French agriculture.

The sanitary organisation for animal and plant health is intended to coordinate and pool initiatives for prevention and surveillance and develop partnerships, clarifying their core tasks, powers and responsibilities, the aim being to improve the performance of animal and plant health management systems in furtherance of public health and the competitiveness of the French agriculture and agrifood industry.

A classification for determination of action priorities ranks pests and pathogens in three categories of sanitary hazard. The ways and means brought to bear by government and industry bodies are defined on the basis of the gravity of the risk involved. This classification is updated to take account of current sanitary issues.

Consultative and steering bodies for animal and plant sanitary policy bringing together all stakeholders

and considered to form what can genuinely be called a “parliament of sanitary affairs”, have been in place since 2013. They meet regularly with the DGAL in the chair, alongside CNOPSAV (the French national council for the orientation of animal and plant sanitary policy) at national level, with the DRAAFs or Prefects in the chair in the regions, alongside CROPSAV (the regional equivalent of CNOPSAV).

In performing the actions for which it is responsible, government is reliant at regional level on official sanitary organisations following a detailed set of specifications: sanitary organisations (OVS) and technical veterinary bodies (OVTs). In particular, government, as the delegating authority, expressed a wish that the delegated bodies (OVS in the regions, FAM, CTIFL, GNIS/SOC nationally) should adopt an approach focused on continuous improvement backed by COFRAC accreditation following the ISO/CEI 17020 standard: audits were successfully conducted in 2017.

Alongside this, the purpose of the epidemiological surveillance platforms is to provide government and other surveillance management

bodies with methodological and operational support for enhanced efficiency. The epidemiological surveillance platform for animal health (ESA), in operation since 2011, saw its importance reaffirmed in 2017 and was called upon to devote considerable effort to managing avian influenza. The other two platforms in the plant health and food safety spheres are currently in the process of formalisation. Where plants are concerned, preparation of the platform demonstrated its usefulness for all stakeholders in providing input for the *Xylella fastidiosa* surveillance plan and collective, in-depth analysis of the data.

Seven years on from the French National Sanitary Conference (*États Généraux du Sanitaire*), the CGAAER (French general council on food, agriculture and rural areas) of the ministry of agriculture and food has been entrusted with the task of evaluating what this new system of governance has accomplished and the results obtained, and to look at a range of scenarios for further development in order to consolidate it. The relevant report is expected for early 2018. ■

4

OUR RESPONSE TO SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS DRIVING AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMES

AGRICULTURE: PRODUCING DIFFERENTLY

AGRO-ÉCOLOGIE
PRODUISONS
AUTREMENT

The DGAL is a contributor to the implementation of agroecology, the guiding thread for a more resilient agricultural policy able to address climatic, economic, sanitary and social goals and issues and the expectations of the public for their own health, the environment and the welfare of animals.

THE ECOPHYTO PROGRAMME

ÉCOPHYTO
RÉDUIRE ET AMÉLIORER
L'UTILISATION DES PHYTOS

The objective of the Ecophyto II plan is to reduce the use of plant protection products by 50% by 2025. On the ground, the “Dephy” farms, now numbering 3,000, have shown that it is possible to apply fewer treatments without impacting either yields or economic performance.

It was to disseminate such results that the initial groups of farms, the so-called “30,000”, formed. Today they number nearly 5,000 agricul-


tural holdings. Those groups now have a priority claim on the extra €30m of annual funding earmarked for the regions.

One of the other methods for disseminating results, the PPP savings certificate scheme (CEPP), is now in full operation on revised legal foundations.

With the adoption of law 2017-348 of 20 March 2017 against land grabs and for biocontrol development, the French parliament confir-

med this innovative scheme, restoring its legal basis.

At regional level, almost all the roadmaps intended to define priorities to suit each region were validated in 2017. The National Food Conference was an opportunity to reaffirm the goal promoted by the Plan and to call for a strengthening of some of its components. ■

 To find out more:
<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/ecophyto>


SEEDS AND PLANTS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Selective breeding and the production of seeds and plants, a key tool for the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, is a business sector of excellence in France. Generating annual sales standing at €3.3 billion, France is the world's leading exporter and European's leading producer of seeds.

The new version of the “Seeds and Plants for Sustainable Agriculture”

plan makes improvement of varieties and seed quality central to the challenge of agroecology. In 2017, several initiatives were set in train, specifically those for the conservation of plant genetic resources, evaluation methods for plant varieties, selection and identification of varieties suited to organic farming and to increased plant protein production. The launch of a call for proposals in September 2017 with funding of

€300,000 will provide support for initiatives on the characterisation and ensuring the long-term viability of collections of crop plant genetic resources. ■

 To find out more:
<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/plan-semences-et-plants-pour-une-agriculture-durable>

ÉCOANTIBIO
RÉDUIRE L'UTILISATION DES
ANTIBIOTIQUES VÉTÉRINAIRES

PUBLIC POLICY AGAINST ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE: THE ECOANTIBIO PLAN


The combat against antimicrobial resistance is a major global public health challenge because such resistance leads to less effective, or even totally ineffective, treatment for certain pathologies in animals and human beings.



An initial national plan for 2012-2017 was implemented in order to reduce the risks of resistance to antimicrobials in veterinary medicine. It was designed in close conjunction with representatives of agricultural trade organisations and veterinarians, scientists, government departments and representatives from veterinary pharmaceutical companies. It very significantly outperformed its initial target of reducing animals' exposure to antibiotics by 25% over five years. The actual reduction achieved was 37% across all livestock farming and pet sectors.

An Ecoantibio 2 Plan was launched in 2017. This aims to ensure long-term maintenance of the reduction in animals' exposure to antibiotics by means of communication and training programmes, access to alternatives to antimicrobials and improvements in the prevention of animal diseases.

This Plan is part of the inclusive “One Health” approach and aligned with European and international recommendations (WHO, FAO, OIE). ■

 To find out more:
<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/ecoantibio>

AN ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY FOR 2016-2020

The general public and consumers are increasingly attentive to issues of animal welfare, requiring explanations and action from both industry and government. Good farm livestock welfare is conducive to good performance and enhances farmers' quality of life and safety. It is increasingly a competitive advantage for livestock farmers and the processors of animal products.

Working with all stakeholders in farming, health and society, the DGAL has built an ambitious strategy for

all farm livestock and pets. The roadmap, which has five core focuses, was implemented in 2017. Seen as a prerequisite for the success and adaptation of sustainable livestock farms, it has been made an integral part of the agroecology policy.

The 2017 National Food Conference was an opportunity to reaffirm the goal pursued by the strategy, specifically the demand for protection of livestock at the slaughterhouse and during transportation. Inspections and penalties will be strengthened. ■

 To find out more:
<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/une-nouvelle-strategie-globale-pour-le-bien-etre-des-animaux>

FOOD POLICY FOR THE FUTURE

The purpose of the new food policy deriving from France's recent law on the future of agriculture is to defend the national food model. It is a major factor in ensuring social justice and cohesion and aims to provide a more effective response to the expectations of consumers as well as helping maintain the competitiveness

of the French agricultural and agri-food industry. That industry provides commercial outlets for 70% of all French agricultural production, protecting jobs and contributing to the development of rural areas. It also assists in promoting France's culinary tradition. It takes practical form in the national food programme. ■

GUIDING THE NATIONAL FOOD PROGRAMME

The priorities for action are the following:

- social justice;
- educating young people on food, a core target for the policy;
- ensuring that the policy is embedded in the regions, with maximum proximity to the general public;
- combating food waste.

The purpose of support for local regional food projects (PATs) bringing together the various stakeholders in a given geographical area, is to enhance the quality of food and build bridges between consumers and producers. The goal is to energise local regions through encouragement of new farmers to come into the industry, short distribution channels, local products in canteens, organic production, and much more. PATs can obtain official recognition from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. ■



To find out more:
<http://alimentation.gouv.fr/pna-2>



OUR ROLE IN
**COMBATING
CRIME**

5



Combating illegal activities in the sanitary domain is a cross-functional core task for the DGAL, supporting sanitary controls applied by the decentralised services.

AN INVESTIGATION UNIT

As a corps able to take action anywhere on French territory, the national unit for veterinary and phytosanitary investigations (BNEVP) is a task force available to be called upon in an emergency. Its activities are focused on combating organised criminal activity.

The BNEVP conducts investigations in order to counter organised crime in the sanitary domain and provides technical back-up for sanitary inspection staff, especially in times of crisis. The BNEVP's powers therefore cover the entire range of veterinary and phytosanitary domains and are relevant not only to the services responsible for veterinary public health but also those whose remit is plant protection. From an operational standpoint, its core tasks fall into three categories:

- combating organised criminal activities in the sanitary and phytosanitary domains;
 - conducting national investigations on behalf of the DGAL;
 - providing technical back-up to sanitary inspection services.
- The unit assists the judicial authorities, police and customs, as well as government departments involved in combating sanitary crime. ■



6

OUR ROLE IN
**CRISIS
MANAGEMENT**

A SANITARY EMERGENCY UNIT

Alert management is a cross-functional core task for the DGAL, in support of the sanitary inspection activities of the decentralised services.

The DGAL's sanitary emergency unit (MUS) is tasked with managing alerts, emergencies and sanitary crises, especially for food-related issues within the remit of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Alerts originate in inspections performed by the sanitary authorities, self-inspections carried out by industry professionals, examinations by veterinarians (relating to animal health) and consumer complaints,

as well as other sources. Other alerts may be triggered by the appearance of medical conditions with a suspected origin in foodstuffs (foodborne illness) or contact with animals.

Once triggered, an alert leads to investigations of various kinds and measures relating to products and/or animals.

The DGAL manages food-related alerts linked to products of animal origin and foodstuffs containing such products (which may or may not be a cause of problems for human health such as foodborne illnesses), plants while these are still in the fields, and feed of animal origin.

It also handles alerts relating to animal and plant health. Food-related alerts concerning plant products after harvest, products in contact with food and dietary foods all fall within the remit of the DGCCRF (General Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control). Alerts are managed in conjunction with the national, European and international alert networks. The DGAL (MUS) is one of two points of contact for the RASFF (European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) and the national point of contact for INFOSAN (the International Food Safety Authorities Network, dealing with the same issues).

The MUS is also tasked with designing and monitoring the tools and operational documentation required for the management of alerts and sanitary crises.

Specifically, it is responsible for oversight of national emergency plans and exercises conducted in this field. ■

WHAT IS AN ALERT?

An alert is defined as the detection or notification of non-compliance in a food product: the presence, for example, of bacteria possibly hazardous for human health, outbreaks of animal diseases possibly transmissible to human beings (anthrax, foot-

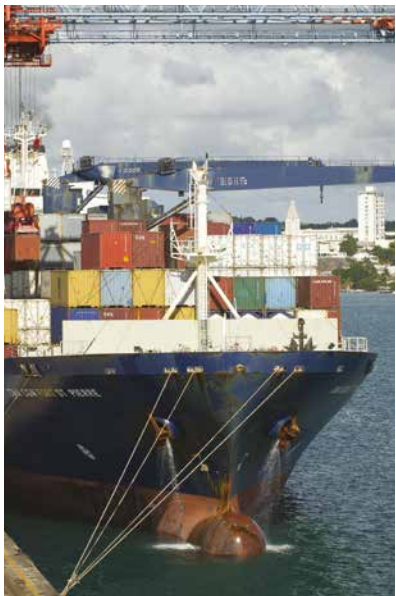
and-mouth disease, avian influenza, Newcastle disease, etc.) or infestations by harmful organisms (pine wood nematode, Asian long-horned beetle, etc.).



To find out more:
agriculture.gouv.fr/alimentation/alerte-alimentation

OUR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

7



CONSTANT INTERACTION WITH EUROPEAN UNION AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES

The DGAL is particularly attentive to the ongoing status of negotiations on the EU-Mercosur agreement. It has contributed to the drafting of the government's action plan for the implementation of the EU-Canada agreement (CETA).

The DGAL is a participant in the work done by the European institutions on the sanitary and phytosanitary matters. It contributes actively to negotiations and provides advocacy for France's positions in those areas. In 2017, this was notably the case for the negotiations surrounding free-trade agreements between the European Union and third countries.

Its representatives visit Brussels very regularly for meetings of CVO (Chief Veterinary Officers) and COPH (Chief Officers for Plant Health), in addition to those of the various sections of the PAFF Committee (Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed).

The DGAL also monitors agreements signed between the European Union and third countries on sanitary and phytosanitary matters.

Internationally, it tracks the negotiations on the agreement for application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) at the WTO. The purpose of this international agreement is to facilitate trade by limiting unjustified sanitary and phytosanitary barriers, while at the same time acknowledging countries' entitlement to take necessary protective steps.

The CVO is France's permanent delegate to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), to the work of which it contributes in the area of animal health and welfare standards and regulations. In the phytosanitary sphere, the COPH represents France in the proceedings of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and its regional organisation for Europe (EPPO). The DGAL is also a regular

contributor to the work of other international organisations (FAO, Codex Alimentarius, Remesa [Mediterranean Animal Health Network], the G7 CVO, etc.).

The DGAL is also responsible for bilateral negotiations with third countries on sanitary and phytosanitary barriers. With a view to opening up markets, it hosts numerous third-country delegations wishing to inspect French companies or audit our sanitary and phytosanitary system.

Additionally, the DGAL conducts cooperation and partnership programmes with numerous countries. It shares its experience and promotes its technical expertise when welcoming foreign delegations (e.g. Algeria, South Africa, Kosovo, Morocco) or assigning French experts to missions in those countries (e.g. Turkey, China). Specifically, it provides its support to the organisation of the Summer School run by the National School of Veterinary Services (ENSV) which hosts and trains veterinary officers from a number of countries. ■

8

OUR RESOURCES

HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2017, the DGAL's headcount increased for the third consecutive year – by 60 additional FTEs. In 2018, staffing will be maintained at the 2017 level.

The total headcount (nearly 4,800 full working time equivalents) is split between the central administration and the regional directorates for food, agriculture and forestry (DRAAF) and the directorates in the *départements* responsible for protection of the public, the DDPPs and DD(CS)PPs in metropolitan France, and the directorates for food, agriculture and forestry (DAAF) in France's overseas territories. The DGAL cooperates closely with the general inspectorate for staff and organisational support (IGAPS).

The sanitary crises of 2017 (avian influenza, bluetongue and *Xylella fastidiosa*) have underscored the need to strengthen the systems for prevention and vigilance. In order to assist teams in the affected regions, the Budget Directorate authorised the recruitment of additional officers on a short-term basis.

In 2017, as in 2016, 60 extra posts were created specifically for sanitary safety tasks. ■

CONTINUOUS STAFF TRAINING: A KEY TOOL FOR SKILL MAINTENANCE

The training policy adopted by the DGAL is deliberately proactive in order to meet skill needs expressed by staff and as necessary for evolving control tasks. ■

EXPERT NETWORKS

Implementation of the public policies for which the DGAL is responsible and the changing European and French regulatory context intensify the need for the DGAL and the decentralised departments to be able to rely on networks of in-house experts of acknowledged competence.

The DGAL's department for veterinary and phytosanitary expertise (DEVP) has 40 national specialists of reference and 121 resource individuals. Occupying posts in the regional or departmental directorates, these members of staff help

consolidate the ability to provide in-house expertise for veterinary and phytosanitary risk management.

This system is adaptive and requirements for expertise are regularly reassessed in light of the sanitary situation in France and the emergence of new hazards such as the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*. ■

TOTAL COST OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS:
€535 MILLION

AGRICULTURAL AND AGRIFOOD INDUSTRY TURNOVER (PRODUCTION, PROCESSING) SUBJECT TO DGAL OVERSIGHT:
APPROXIMATELY €270 BILLION

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SECTOR TURNOVER:
IN THE REGION OF €220 BILLION

AGRIFOOD SECTOR TRADE SURPLUS:
€9.2 BILLION

THE BUDGET

The Director General for Food is accountable for budget programme 206 "Food Safety and Quality" as part of the Mi-

nistry's core responsibility for "Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Rural Affairs". Programme 206 is built around seven actions relating essentially to payroll and intervention costs. Excluding funds for remuneration, the initial budget for the programme for 2017 has seen an

increase of 50%, with released fund advances of €100m made necessary by sanitary crises and raising budget execution to €321.7m. The sanitary issues addressed by programme 206 led to a 12% increase in funding for intervention voted through by parliament for 2018. ■

Action Number and Heading	Objective	Budget (€ millions)
Action 1: Prevention and management of risks intrinsic to plant production	To guarantee conditions for plant production that safeguard public health and protect crops.	28.7
Action 2: Control of animal diseases and protection of animals	To ensure control of animal diseases hazardous for the human population and/or livestock farming economics; surveillance of proper use of substances administered to livestock and ensuring that living and usage conditions comply with the rules governing satisfactory treatment of farm livestock and pets.	186.1
Action 3: Prevention and management of sanitary risks associated with foodstuffs	Covers all official control activities relating to sanitary conditions for the production, import and marketing of foodstuffs of animal origin and early detection of food-related sanitary risks.	24.9
Action 4: Transverse actions	Mainly the subsidy allocated to ANSES and new core tasks: the agreement between central & regional government on product nutritional and sanitary quality.	73.8
Action 5: Elimination of carcasses and animal co-products	For expenditure linked to the public rendering service.	2.6
Action 6: Implementation of food safety and quality policy	Groups together the funding for decentralised department staff and operations. Action 6 also relates to payroll costs in the DD(CS)PPs, DRAAF/SRALs and DAAF/SALIMs.	313.5
Action 8: Food quality and market offering	Contribution to the implementation of food policy and the national food programme (PNA).	4.6
TOTAL		634.2

QUALITY-LED MANAGEMENT

The DGAL is committed to quality-led management founded on an approach focused on processes and it is pursuing its action in this area, aiming to make quality a tool for continuous improvement of the operation of its organisation.

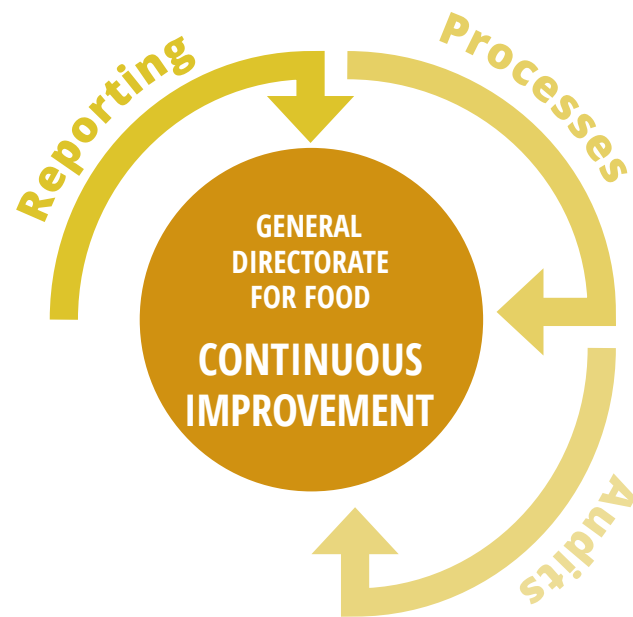
Our quality-led management policy is founded on process descriptions applied by DGAL's internal depart-

ments. Key to each datasheet is a flow chart describing the various stages in the process, to which are associated the relevant actors, actions and tools. They are intended to identify risks intrinsic to the different processes to ensure that organisations can develop tools to control those risks. These datasheets serve as reference documentation for internal audits.

This is supplemented by audit method datasheets published in order to assist auditors as well as

the DGAL's organisational entities. These documents set out in detail the main deliverables expected from audits, as based on a risk-focused approach.

Local quality managers (RQLs), regional quality leadership managers (CRAQs), process leaders and the office for quality-led management and inspection coordination provide their support to directors and the entire working community for the application of quality-led management. ■



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