DGAL
ACTIVITY REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS
2015

THE FRENCH GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR FOOD
The tragic events that marked 2015 awakened a profound expression of deep attachment to the democratic values under attack, and especially liberty and fraternity. If it is to meet citizens’ expectations, the administration must perform more effectively than ever its core tasks in the field of safety and security. That notably entails sanitary safety and sustainable food supplies for the population, these being the principal objectives of the French General Directorate for Food (DGAL) as part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry.

In this regard, two events in 2015 helped open up promising prospects: the first was the Milan universal exposition, which stimulated international debate on the search for ways to feed the planet’s population in this new millennium. The second was the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21), which resulted in a historical, ambitious and balanced agreement on limiting global warming: the Paris Agreement of 12 December.

It is against this backdrop of major goals and issues for the generations to come that the DGAL has had to cope with a number of difficulties: the emergence or re-emergence of diseases fostered by the expansion in global population, the globalisation of trade and climate disruption, the risks of zoonotic diseases (animal diseases communicable to human beings), the new dangers posed by endocrine disruptors and chemical contaminants. Indeed, 2015 was a year marked by three large-scale sanitary crises: the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* where plants are concerned and, for animals, bluetongue and avian influenza.
The DGAL conducted a number of projects of structural importance in 2015:

- Continued implementation of our structural policies on food and agroecology with the National Food Programme (PNA), the Ecoantibio and Ecophyto plans, sustainable development of beekeeping, the Seeds and Sustainable Agriculture plan and the national animal welfare strategy.
- The drafting of instruments for the application of the Law on the Future of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.
- Ensuring transparency for government action with trials of the publication of hygiene inspection outcomes in commercial out-of-home catering.
- The strengthening of policy on official control and surveillance of national territory based on the roll-out of decisions derived from the CIMAP (interministerial committee for the modernisation of government action) action plan.

Lastly, the DGAL has actively pursued its efforts to exert influence at European and international levels and its activities for advocacy of the French sanitary system to third countries to facilitate access for French products to external markets by obtaining the removal of phytosanitary and sanitary barriers.

The present Activity Report for 2015 is testimony to the work of a hard-working team endeavouring to protect the public and consumers, but with a special emphasis on the food and the environment for the generations of tomorrow.

Patrick Dehaumont
Head of the General Directorate for Food
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AN OVERVIEW OF 2015

JANUARY

8
Meeting of the animal health section of CNOPSAV (National Council for Animal and Plant Health Policy).

14
Agreement on resumption of live pig exports to Russia.

20
France-Portugal meeting on sanitary issues in Paris.

30
Meeting of CNOS (National Strategy Orientation Committee) for the Eco-phyto Plan and the “Agroecology Year 1” Day.

FEBRUARY

4-5
NPPO Days (National Plant Protection Organisation) in Lyon, France.

5
Annual General Meeting of the French National Bovine Federation (FNB) in Rodez, France.

9-10
Annual meeting of the border post managers of SIVEP (Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Inspection Service).

12-13
Meeting of the Executive Committee of EuFMD (foot-and-mouth disease) in Belgrade.

21 Feb-1 March
Participation in the Paris International Agricultural Show (SIA):
- Launch of a research and innovation consortium to consolidate the French biocontrol sector.
- Meeting with the EU Commissioner for Health.
- Awards by the Minister to the 19 winners of the call for proposals for the PNA (national food programme).
- Dietary education for young people: meeting between Stéphane Le Foll and Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, Minister of National Education.

22-26
Participation in the Paris International Agribusiness Show (SIMA) in Villepinte, France.

26
Meeting with agricultural attachés on the margins of the Paris International Agricultural Show (SIA).
MARCH

11
CNOPSAV plenary session.

16-17
Meeting of REMESA (Mediterranean Animal Health Network) in Heraklion, Greece.

16-20
International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) meeting in Rome.

24
Meeting of the Seeds and Sustainable Agriculture Plan national monitoring committee.

24
16th edition of the Parcours du goût (“careers in taste”) event in Valence, with the support of the DGAL, regional service (DRAAF) for the Rhône-Alpes region.

APRIL

14
Delivery of Guillaume Garot’s report on food waste to Stéphane Le Foll and Ségolène Royal.

20-24
Visit to China by the head of the General Directorate for Food on the occasion of the World Dairy Expo & Summit in Harbin, China.

23-24
41st session of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD, FAO).

MAY

4
Signing of the collective agreement for the charcuterie industry.

6
Consultative committee on governance for the Ecophyto Plan.

21
CNOPSAV plenary session.

21
Plenary of the crop selection technical committee (CTPS).

22
Visit by Japan’s Food Safety Commission.
24–29

26
Ecoantibio Plan steering committee meeting.

JUNE

8
Launch of the public consultation process for the Ecophyto II Plan.

11
National food council conference in Trouville: “Communication and Food: the conditions for trust”.

15
The launch, as every year, of a reinforced interministerial inspection programme “Food on Holiday” to cover the period to mid-September.

15
Launch of the trial of the health inspection outcome transparency programme for restaurants.

16
Visit by the Deputy Minister of AQSIQ, the Chinese quality supervision, inspection and quarantine department.

17
CNOPSAV plenary session.

24–25
France-Spain meeting in Perpignan.

28
Meeting with consumer associations.

JULY

1
Transfer to ANSES of responsibility for issuance of phytosanitary product marketing authorisations.

1-2
France-Italy meeting in Turin.

11
First case of bluetongue detected in the Allier département.

15
Meeting between the head of the DGAL and the head of the EU Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety in Brussels.

15–18
Participation in SPACE, the international livestock show, in Rennes.

23
Participation in the agricultural counselors and attaches conference.

28
Meeting with consumer associations.
NOT FORGETTING

• The monthly meetings of the regional agricultural directorates (DRAAFs) and the IGAPS (general inspectors for personnel and organisational support) and the monthly meetings of the regional food departments (SRALs).
• The monthly meetings of the EU Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) and Chief Officers of Plant Health Services (COPHS).
• The meetings of the EU Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF).
• Plus regular technical team seminars.

OCTOBER

6–7
DGAL/devolved services seminar on “Animal health and protection” in Rennes.

7–9
Livestock farming summit, Cournon.

16

NOVEMBER

17
Conference: “The ‘One Health’ approach applied to antibiotic resistance: time for action” organised by the DGAL and the Directorate General for Health (DGS).

23–25
DGAL/devolved services seminar on “Plant Safety for Health”, Paris.

24–25
Meeting of the REMESA (Mediterranean Animal Health Network) steering committee in Algiers.

25
First case of highly pathogenic avian influenza detected on a poultry farm in the Dordogne.

30
Launch of the 31st winter season of the “Restos du Cœur” charity restaurants in the presence of the Minister.

DECEMBER

7
Second meeting on repetitive strain injuries (RSI) and slaughterhouse sanitary inspections.

8
Extraordinary CNOPSAV plenary session on avian influenza.

16
Committee meeting, Council of the World Fund for Animal Health and Welfare (OIE).
MAJOR PROGRAMMES
Food Sanitary Safety in France

Towards an Imperative Holistic Approach

Today, the sanitary safety of foodstuffs is generally well under control in France and Europe generally. Nevertheless, vigilance is still necessary on microbial, parasitic and virological risks – as well as chemical hazards, now better understood.

The CIMAP (interministerial committee for the modernisation of government action) team on food sanitary safety policy delivered its report at the end of 2014 to the ministers of agriculture, consumerism and health. A joint action plan was drafted and validated in 2015.

The aim is to set a forward direction for policy on food sanitary safety based on a holistic assessment of the risks covering every hazard and every stage in the food chain “field to fork”, permitting effective allocation of human and financial resources proportionate to risk and a strengthening of consumer trust, notably through more effective, because more readily understood, communication.

A Changed Context

• Market surveillance has been complicated by the opening up of markets and increased trade flows.
• Major changes have been made since 2008 to the government services responsible for food sanitary safety in France.
• The emergence of a number of microbial pathologies and new hazards, especially of chemical nature.
• Uncertainty as to the reality of dangers, which feeds consumer concern.

A Plan with Three Pillars

• Reinforcement and organisation of the capacity for sanitary vigilance and surveillance of national territory.
• Promotion of a food sanitary safety system integrated at both national and EU levels.
• Securing and optimising collective action on the management of food sanitary safety risks.

Roll-out of Several Components in 2015

• An overarching assessment of all sanitary risks throughout the food chain.

At the beginning of July 2015 the ministers of agriculture, consumerism and health together called the attention of the EU commissioner for health and food safety to the need for a cross-cutting, integrated evaluation of sanitary risks: this would take into consideration the whole range of chemical and biological contaminants of foodstuffs of plant and animal origin, whether produced in the European Union or imported from third countries.
• Ranking risks
  - ANSES is called upon by the DGAL, the DGS and the DGCCRF to work on ranking the different food-related risks with a study into the attribution of sources of food-borne infectious diseases and an analysis of the whole range of chemical risks for foods-tuffs of animal and plant origin.
  - An update to the InVS report “Morbidity and mortality due to food-borne infectious disease”.
  - The combined results of the above studies will improve definition of the priorities and give direction to programmes aimed at reducing effectively the food-borne disease burden..

• Creation of epidemiological surveillance platforms
  Aimed at providing the competent government services and other managers of surveillance systems with the methodological and operational support needed to define, deploy and drive sanitary and biological surveillance systems across the country (ordinance 2015-1242 of 7 October 2015).

• Securing and optimising collective action
  A government circular to Prefects in the regions and départements is currently being drafted to define regional priorities for action and foster coordination between the various actors and between administrative and judicial authorities.

• Public information and reinforcement of consumer trust
  In order to make government action in the area of food sanitary safety more comprehensible for the general public, a general multiyear inspection programme is to be published in the first quarter of 2016.

• The outcomes of official inspections have been made the subject of a trial programme for restaurants in the cities of Avignon and Paris. Pursuant to Article 45 of the Law on the Future of Agriculture (LAAAF), this will be extended to include all food industry premises and the whole of France from 1 July 2016.
The DGAL drafted instruments for application of LAAAF provisions within its remit: Title III of the Law covers food policy and sanitary performance.

Three ordinances and nine official decrees have been issued. The main areas of progress:

**FOOD POLICY**

- The creation of regional policies on food (PAT) in order to bring the various links in the food chain closer together (producers, processors, distributors, regional authorities and consumers).

- National and regional calls for proposals to encourage local initiatives: in February 2015, 19 flagship projects were selected under the call for proposals for the 2014 French National Food Programme (PNA). This provided support for nearly 400 national or regional proposals at a cost of over €3 million.

- The National Food Council (CAN) was strengthened to act as a “food parliament”, thus encouraging societal debate. http://www.cna-alimentation.fr

**CONTROLLING INPUTS IN AGRICULTURE AND IMPROVING PRODUCTION METHODS**

- Veterinary medicine and the combat against antibiotic resistance.
  - Targeting a reduction in the use of so-called “critical” antibiotics, i.e. antibiotics of last resort for human health: -25% over three years in the case of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones.
  - Stricter control of the use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine with a ban on discounts, price reductions and rebates for antibiotics sales from 1 January 2015 (measure no. 29 in the Ecoantibio Plan).
  - The official order of 22 July 2015 defines good practice for the use in veterinary medicine of drugs containing antibiotics. Other measures are being considered by the Conseil d’État (prohibition of the use of critical antibiotics for preventive purposes).

- Controlling the use of phytopharmaceuticals.
  - Constant monitoring of the impact of phytosanitary products on the environment and human health (phytopharmacovigilance measures).
  - Reinforcement of the combat against illegal copies and imports.
  - A ban on all advertising to the general public and industry professionals, other than at points of sale and in specialist media.
  - Trials of a system of economy certificates for phytosanitary products (Ecophyto II Plan) beginning on 1 July 2016.
  - Facilitation of the marketing and use of biocontrol products as innovative alternatives to phytosanitary products.
  - Introduction of a simplified procedure for the authorisation of natural substances for use as biostimulants.

MORE EFFECTIVE COLLECTIVE ORGANISATION SERVING BOTH PUBLIC AND BUSINESSES

- **Transfer of responsibility for marketing authorisations (AMM) for phytosanitary products and fertilisers: a successful simplification measure.**

- **Transparency on inspection outcomes.**
  A trial of publication of restaurant hygiene inspection outcomes (1 July to 31 December 2015). Generalisation of the programme to canteens, food processing facilities, etc. is planned for 1 July 2016.

- **Consolidation of a network of reference laboratories in the area of sanitary safety.**

A decree published on 31 December 2015 defining the terms on which these facilities perform their public service tasks.

OPTIMISATION OF SURVEILLANCE: TOWARDS SURVEILLANCE PLATFORMS FOR ANIMAL HEALTH, PLANT HEALTH AND FOOD SANITARY SAFETY

- **Better-organised surveillance.**
  Publication of an ordinance on 7 October 2015 laying down the principle of the creation of epidemiological surveillance platforms to support the competent government services and, at their request, the other managers of surveillance systems.

- **Greater consideration for the role of wild fauna in sanitary systems.**
  - Recognition of hunters as relevant to prevention, surveillance and the control of sanitary threats posed by wildlife.
  - Recognition of ONCFS officers (French National Hunting and Wild Fauna Association) as having official powers under the code of rural and maritime fisheries law.

- **Stricter sanitary supervision for the beekeeping sector.**
  - Publication of the official order of 16 January 2015 listing the veterinary medicine procedures sanitary technicians in beekeeping operations are authorised to carry out.

- **Improved traceability for livestock in the event of illness (tuberculosis, brucellosis).**
  - Decree on mandatory notification of holders of camelids (5,000-10,000 animals) and their identification by fitting transponders or double ear tags.

ANIMAL WELFARE

- **Better controlling trade in pets**
  - Publication of the ordinance of 13 October 2015 strengthening the rules applicable to trade in pets in order to combat abandonment, improve the effectiveness of DDPP controls and counter unfair competition.
FOOD POLICY
OUR MODEL FOR THE FUTURE

The French national food programme is built around four main pillars:

REGIONAL ROOTS
BASED NOTABLY ON LOCAL PROCUREMENT IN INSTITUTIONAL CATERING.

Every year three billion meals are served in 73,000 institutional catering facilities (in companies, nurseries, schools, hospitals, social and medico-social units, etc.).

- In 2015 a number of resources were produced and made available on the ministry’s website (http://agriculture.gouv.fr/motscl%C3%A9s/restauration-collective):
  - A practical guide “How to encourage local procurement of high-quality products for institutional catering” intended for elected representatives and managers of institutional catering facilities.

- A guide to methods for designing projects to foster local procurement of high-quality products for institutional catering, notably platform-based.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ESPECIALLY FOR THE MOST DISADVANTAGED POPULATION GROUPS.

Every year in France over four million people must fall back on food banks.

- Ensuring access for all to good food in sufficient quantities:
  - Facilitating food donations: extension of the TVA exemption applicable to donations of milk and eggs to include processed and packaged fruit, vegetables and potatoes.


- Fostering social integration or reintegration through food:
  - Numerous programmes have been conducted, especially in prisons, by DRAAFs and the prisons department (e.g. training of prisoners for bakery diplomas). http://agriculture.gouv.fr/la-maison-centrale-de-poissey-lutte-contre-le-gaspillage-alimentaire

- Enhancing the quality of the food market offering for all:
  - The signing on 4 May 2015 of the collective agreement for the charcuterie industry notably aimed at limiting the salt and fat content of its products. http://alimentation.gouv.fr/accords-collectifs
DIETARY EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

- A letter from the ministers of education and agriculture was sent to the chairs of education authorities on 4 August 2015 concerning the introduction of educational programmes on diet promoting the French food model.
- The creation of a dedicated area on the ministry of education website to provide educational teams with teaching resources approved under the National Food Programme (PNA).
- Provision of teaching materials: guides to welcoming schoolchildren on visits to food industry companies, a practical guide to building an in-school gardening project, thematic kits (etc.) and management of national programmes (“Fruit for playtime”, a taste education programme, and so on). See the web links on page 35.

COMBATING FOOD WASTE.

- A meeting, two years after the signing of the anti-food waste pact in June 2013, of the national monitoring committee for the pact in connection with the national anti-food waste day on 16 October 2015. This attracted substantial participation by pact signatories.
- Presentation of Guillaume Garot’s parliamentary report in April 2015.
- Promotion of the French version of the “doggy bag”: the “gourmet” bag.

HORIZONTAL MOBILISATION TOOLS.

The renewal in September 2015 of the national call for proposals for the French National Food Programme (PNA) (total budget €600,000).
- Nineteen projects were selected in 2014 and implemented in 2015.
- The new call for proposals prioritises the four pillars of public policy on food; emphasis on regional roots for food production, regional food projects and local procurement in institutional catering.
- Almost 340 proposals have been submitted to DRAAFs and DAAFs.
THE ECOPHYTO PLAN
RECONCILING COMPETITIVENESS
WITH PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2015

BUILDING THE ECOPHYTO II PLAN

In 2015 new measures were put forward under the Ecophyto II Plan launched on 26 October 2015.

• **23 December 2014:** submission to the Prime Minister by member of parliament Dominique Potier of his report setting out recommendations for a new version of the Ecophyto Plan.

• **30 January 2015:** presentation by Stéphane Le Foll of the broad lines of the new version of the Ecophyto Plan followed by the production of a draft.

• **8-29 June 2015:** a public consultation process attracting over 4,700 contributions from the general public, farmers, agricultural sector bodies, phytosanitary companies, environmental protection and consumer defence associations, local authorities, etc.

• **26 October 2015:** publication of the Ecophyto II Plan.

ECOPHYTO II: CORE PRINCIPLES

• **The target:** a 50% reduction in the use of phytosanitary products in two stages: a reduction of 25% in the period up to 2020 by generalising currently available techniques and a reduction of 50% by 2025 based on a more radical transformation of systems of production.

• The new plan reinforces optimisation, dissemination and generalisation to the greatest possible number of users of economical and effective techniques and systems whose worth has been demonstrated by pioneers (farmers, local authorities and private citizens).

ECOPHYTO II TOOLS

The Plan uses structural resources put in place by its initial version to help phytosanitary product users to change their methods:

- 500,000 sector professionals trained.
- 1,900 pilot farms enabling identification of nearly 100 economic, high-performance crop systems.
- The target: an increase to 3,000 pilot farms.
- 3,500 plant health bulletins in 2015.
- 29 teaching farms involved.
- 41 trials conducted on 170 sites.
• Dephy, the network of “pilot” farms, to be expanded from 1,900 to 3,000 holdings.
• Certiphyto: over 500,000 certificates have already been awarded. Since 26 November 2015 the certificate is mandatory for all sector professionals.
• Plant health bulletins (BSVs) provide the information necessary for a proper grasp of the local sanitary situation and for informed use of control methods.
• EcophytoPic, a web portal (5,400 visits every month) on integrated crop protection (advisory datasheets, documentation on new methods, etc.). http://agriculture.gouv.fr/ecophytopic-un-portail-web-sur-la-protection-integree-des-cultures.

STAKEHOLDERS
Not only farmers, but also market operators, consumers and gardeners, amateurs, non-profit associations, elected representatives, research bodies, technical institutes, government services, local authorities, etc.

DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH
• Refocusing research and innovation efforts on novel varieties, agricultural equipment, weed management and biocontrol. The call for biocontrol research proposals launched in 2013-2014 led to the selection of 17 projects for Ecophyto finance totalling €2,178,000. These projects began in 2015.
• Development of economically viable and effective alternatives to phytosanitary products.

To find out more, go to: http://agriculture.gouv.fr/mieux-maitriser-les-quantites-utilisees-larecherche-au-service-de-lagro-ecologie

Numerous programmes are ongoing at both regional and local levels: 360 communication actions under DRAAF responsibility.

THE OUTLOOK FOR 2016:
INTRODUCTION OF NEW TOOLS BY THE LAW ON THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE (LAAAF)
• Start of trials of economy certificates for phytosanitary products (ordinance of 8 October 2015): this trial will continue for five years starting on 1 July 2016.
• Introduction of phytopharmacovigilance measures.
• Mandatory provision of individual advisory services, etc.
THE ECOANTIBIO PLAN

The Ecoantibio Plan promotes prudent and controlled use of antibiotics and translates into:

QUANTIFIED TARGETS
for a 25% reduction over five years (2012-2016) in their use in veterinary medicine, in particular the use of antibiotics of critical importance, fluoroquinolones and 3rd- and 4th- generation cephalosporins.

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2015

FOCUS 1/ RAISE AWARENESS

• In-job training for sanitary veterinarians: 95 sanitary veterinarians have attended training sessions on antibiotic resistance during the year. In total, 768 veterinarians have been trained since the introduction of these sessions in September 2013.

• A communication campaign targeting cattle farmers launched in September 2015 to promote vaccination as a tool for preventing disease and reducing the use of antibiotics. This programme will continue during 2016.

• Organisation of conferences directed at researchers, the livestock farming sectors, medical and veterinary practitioners and laboratories. For the third year running, co-organisation of a conference with the Ministry of Health entitled “Combating antibiotic resistance: time for action” (17 November) attended by nearly 160 participants.

• Presentations of the Ecoantibio Plan in the regions to farmers and veterinarians.

• Publication in September 2015 of a circular concerning the 2016 campaign of sanitary visits to cattle farms focusing on the use of antibiotics and raising farmers’ awareness of antibiotic resistance through their veterinarian. The target is 156,000 farm visits in 2016.
The setting up in early 2016 of a pilot network of four veterinarians in four regions as practitioners of reference on resistance to antibiotics. They will be the drivers of a web forum.

**FOCUS 2/ DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES**

Several applied research programmes have been started by agricultural technical institutes and ANSES to develop tools for sanitary prophylaxis and animal husbandry methods.

**FOCUS 3/ STRENGTHEN LEGAL CONTROLS**

- Entry into force on 1 January 2015 of the ban on price reductions discounts and rebates applicable to sales of antibiotics stipulated by the Law on the Future of Agriculture, Food and Forestry of October 2014.
- Publication of the Conseil d’État decree (15 March 2015) laying down the new code of veterinary ethics stressing veterinarians’ duty to ensure prudent and controlled use of antibiotics.
- Publication of the official order of 22 July 2015 on good practice in the use of antibiotics.
- Drafting of several instruments for which the Law on the Future of Agriculture provides:
  - A draft Conseil d’État decree and official order on the competencies of veterinary sales representatives (currently subject to a consultation process with sector bodies);
  - A draft Conseil d’État decree on the declaration of antibiotics sales (currently under consideration by the Ministry’s legal department).
- Definition of the new veterinary pharmacy inspection programme for 2016 to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements by all providers and users of veterinary medicines.

**FOCUS 4/ IMPROVE MONITORING OF ANTIBIOTIC CONSUMPTION AND RESISTANCE**

- Monitoring sales of veterinary antibiotics in France in 2014: ANSES published a report in November 2015 on animals’ exposure to antibiotics. In 2014, a reduction of 10.5% was recorded in sales of critical antibiotics. The ANSES report for 2016 will take 2014 and 2015 sales figures into account in order to smooth the excess stock figures for end 2014.
- Publication of a European Union report on animals’ exposure to antibiotics in 2013: France is now below the average European level for consumption of veterinary antibiotics.

**FOCUS 5/ PROMOTE THE FRENCH APPROACH**

France’s positions have been advocated by the DGAL to a range of organisations: WHO, Codex Alimentarius, FAP, G7, OECD, Chief Veterinary Officers, EU institutions and the French Ministry of Health Task Force.

Those positions have been expressed in negotiations on proposed regulations on veterinary medicines and medicated feed.
THE SEEDS AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PLAN

KEY FIGURES

Trade surplus:
€840 million

Total sales for 2014/2015:
€3,254 million (value of sales in France + exports)

9,000 varieties of 250 different agricultural species

14,404 inspections carried out by the Official Control Service (SOC).

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2015

The seeds and plants sector is a key lever for implementation of the agroecology project driven by the Ministry.

- The first half of 2015: evaluation of Plan implementation by the joint CGAAER-CGEDD* unit alongside an assessment and proposals for changes by the Standing Technical Committee on Seeds and Crop Plants (CTPS): the working groups started to consider contributions from CTPS members.
- 24 March 2015: meeting of the monitoring committee to assess the results of the first plan and present the work begun by the CGAAER unit and the CTPS.
- May 2015: presentation to the Minister of the thematic areas selected by the CTPS to take the plan forward.
- Second half: continuation of working groups with the CTPS to translate contributions into a 2015-2019 roadmap.
- 16 October 2015: further meeting of the Plan monitoring committee.
- Drafting of a revised version of the Plan better-integrated with the agroecology project and providing a better fit with the issues of the seeds and plants sector.
- November 2015: presentation of the CTPS roadmap.

Five main thematic areas have been selected for the roadmap:

- Make selective plant breeding central to public policies;
- Encourage production of knowledge to serve innovation in plant genetics and its use in agriculture;
- Promote genetic diversity and structure networks for conservation of plant genetic resources; adjust the criteria for inclusion of varieties in the official catalogue, especially those suitable for organic agriculture or resistant to pests;
- Develop innovative processes for data generation and analysis (notably networks for trials matched to the diversity of production conditions and climate change);
- Add value to and disseminate data on varieties, making the official catalogue a tool for the promotion of genetic progress.

Launch in December 2015 of the CASDAR call for proposals entitled “Seeds and selective plant breeding” on topics central to the seeds and plants sector:

• Promotion of high-quality applied research based on partnership between public research bodies and private-sector operators to enable benefit to be gained from the results of fundamental research.
• Mobilisation of plant genetic resources and existing data on varieties to contribute to the development of selective breeding schemes and registration systems in line with the expected development of crop systems and in order to adapt to climate change.

Version 2 of the Plan will be submitted to the monitoring committee to seek its view early in 2016. It will include the CTPS roadmap and additional recommendations made by the CGAAER-CGEDD unit.

* CGAAER : General Council for Food, Agriculture and Rural Territories
CGEDD : General Council for Environment and Sustainable Development.

PLAN STAKEHOLDERS
- The CTPS, its plenary committee, its scientific committee and the entire membership of its 15 sections.
- Enterprises in the seeds and plants sector.
- Official control and certification services: GNIS-SOC (national inter-sector grouping on seeds – official control service), FranceAgrimer and CTIFL (intersectoral technical centre for fruit and vegetables).
- DGAL, DGPE (General Directorate for the Economic and Environmental Performance of Enterprises).
- MAAF (French Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry) and MEEM (French Environment Ministry).
ANIMAL HEALTH AND PROTECTION

The DGAL, and its sub-directorate for animal health and protection in particular, is responsible for drafting regulations in the field of animal welfare, livestock traceability, prevention of animal diseases, sanitary surveillance of livestock farms and the management of diseases that may occur there: bluetongue and avian influenza in 2015, for example. The implementation of the agroecology project as defined by the Law on the Future of Agriculture, Food and Forestry notably involves on-farm inspection programmes:

- In the field of veterinary pharmacy, inspections focus on national policy on reduction of risks of antibiotic resistance linked to the veterinary use of medicinal products;
- In the field of animal protection, a national strategy has been defined for the next five years and will entail the implementation, beginning in 2016, of an action plan for livestock farms and pets.
AVIAN INFLUENZA: A FARM DEPOPULATION STRATEGY IN ORDER TO ERADICATE THE VIRUS AND ENSURE DISEASE-FREE HOLDINGS IN THE FRENCH SOUTHWEST

At the end of November 2015 outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza were detected in the southwest of France. At the end of the year over sixty outbreaks had been identified, mainly on farms raising palmipeds (i.e. ducks, geese, etc.) in eight départements.

The highly pathogenic avian influenza virus identified poses no risk to human beings, but it is possible that it could recombine, leading to a risk of its becoming more virulent.

Confronted with this situation, and in light of the sanitary and economic issues, the DGAL introduced, in conjunction with concerned industry professionals, a strategy aimed at eradicating the disease, preventing its resurgence in the future and enabling France to recover as rapidly as possible its disease-free status for the poultry industry as a whole.

The roll-out of this general strategy started in 2015 with an expectation of eradication by the middle of 2016. Various measures were introduced. Zones were defined: Protection Zones, Surveillance Zones and a broad Restriction Zone imposed by official ministerial order on 18 December. Measures additional to those required by EU regulations were introduced: restrictions on livestock movements, cleaning, disinfection and complete depopulation of palmipeds farms to ensure eradication of the virus.

Management of this crisis with the DRAAFs and DD(CS)PPs concerned, in addition to ANSES and sector professionals, required considerable hard work from teams. Many discussions and meetings were directed at limiting the consequences for exports of France’s loss of AI-free status by offering the necessary guarantees to importing countries.
BLUETONGUE: INTENSIFIED SURVEILLANCE AND VACCINATION

In 2015, the DGAL was obliged to manage another crisis related to an animal disease: bluetongue. This was detected in September in central France after three years in which it had been absent from continental France. By the end of 2015 some 150 outbreaks had been identified on farms raising cattle, goats and sheep; around fifteen départements were affected.

The basic principle underlying control of the spread of this disease, which is passed on by insects carrying the virus (Culicoides midges), is to restrict movements of domestic ruminants from a regulated zone towards any disease-free zone, protect animals by means of vaccination and apply insecticide.

An emergency vaccination campaign was organised by the government as early as September. The priority target for this was the livestock involved in selective breeding and animals intended for trade within the EU or export to third countries.

Surveillance was stepped up in metropolitain France in order to arrive at a rapid assessment of the extent of the area infected with bluetongue serotype 8, to detect introduction of any new virus with a different serotype, as well as to stay on the alert for possible re-emergence of the disease in Corsica.

In compliance with EU regulations and the international standards of the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE), the condition to be met for official bluetongue-free status is an absence of detection of the disease for a period of two years.

In addition, in anticipation of the possible appearance of serotypes 1 and 4, the two most pathogenic, France has set up the world’s first bluetongue antigen bank: producing three million vaccination doses in less than a fortnight, France has a resource for immediate reaction if these two disease serotypes were to appear.

TRADE IN PETS: STRICTER CONTROLS

Breeding is a profession not open to just anyone. From 1 January 2016 the rules governing trade in dogs and cats have been strengthened to guarantee the animals’ health and welfare and protect buyers by ensuring traceability in the sector.

An ordinance published on 7 October 2015 pursuant to the Law on the Future of Agriculture, Food and Forestry lays down stricter rules for trade in dogs and cats. From the very first sale of a pet, it is now obligatory to apply to the Chamber of Commerce for
The Plan’s priority targets, based on a holistic approach, were the health of bee colonies, research, development of the French bee population and vocational training, in addition to organisation of the industry and its production. Of the 115 actions listed in the Plan, 77 had been completed by the end of 2015.

The high mortality of bees and wild pollinators (e.g. bumblebees, butterflies) called for action from the industry, the Ministry Agriculture and scientific experts. Some of the actions in the Plan fall within the direct remit of the DGAL, such as the reduction of the impact of pesticides on colony health (Plan Focus 2). New methods for assessing phytosanitary products at EU level were adopted in response to a proposal from France and a set of measures was put in place reconciling the need to protect bees with agricultural activity in the flowering season.

The Asian Hornet, one of the principal predators of bees and present across a large part of the country, was classified as a category 2 sanitary hazard in December 2012 in order to facilitate its control (Plan Focus 4).

Research is currently either ongoing or in start-up phase for examination of the issue of bee colony health using a comprehensive, multifactorial approach. Specifically, the launch is noteworthy of a study aimed at demonstrating a possible link between colony health and the use of antiparasitic agents and biocides on livestock farms (Focus 1).

In order to control bee diseases (Focus 3), the DGAL has encouraged the promotion of new medicinal products and put in place a network of veterinarians of reference to work on the principle of systematic sanitary farm visits.

After presenting the results of the Plan in January 2016, the Minister of Agriculture, Stéphane Le Foll, decided to extend it for another two years, with a new emphasis on the least-developed focuses (e.g. skill certification and the “French Honey” programme).
PLANT HEALTH AND PROTECTION

The DGAL also regulates and organises health surveillance for plants across the country and efforts to control the sanitary hazards that may affect them. In 2015, in addition to the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*, other disease outbreaks aroused concern, examples being the Ceratocystis platani invasive fungus in plane trees and certain pests harmful to forest species, among others.

One major programme is the preservation of biodiversity and plant genetic resources, notably including the revision of the Seeds and Sustainable Agriculture Plan. Another major component relates to the control of farm inputs, and phytosanitary products in particular, based on national and EU regulations, farm inspections and checks on producers’ use of these inputs.
**XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA**: MANAGING OUTBREAKS IN CORSICA AND THE PROVENCE-ALPS-RIVIERA REGION

The DGAL coordinated the management of the sanitary crisis in Corsica last July, using the field staff of the Corsica and the Provence-Alps-Riviera DRAAFs, and in conjunction with ANSES.

Faced with the growing threat from *Xylella fastidiosa*, at the beginning of 2015, the national *Xylella* surveillance plan was stepped up across the country and at points of entry. As early as April the French authorities were advocating the application of measures at EU level to prevent the introduction and spread of *Xylella*.

Its presence was detected on 22 July on myrtle-leaf milkwort (*Polygala myrtifolia*) in southern Corsica. Government services (DGAL and devolved agencies in Corsica) immediately introduced eradication measures: defining boundaries around outbreaks, grubbing up the plants concerned, applying insecticide in the affected area and conducting an epidemiological investigation.

Milkwort was the main plant infected with *Xylella*. The *Xylella* bacterium identified in Corsica belongs to a different multiplex sub-species to that causing devastation in olive groves in southern Italy.

In October, the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* was confirmed on myrtle-leaf milkwort (*Polygala myrtifolia*) in the Provence-Alps-Riviera region (six outbreaks by the end of the year).

At the end of 2015, 237 outbreaks had been detected in Corsica.

In order to gain a better understanding of the sources of the contamination and its potential vectors, a specialist unit was set up in Corsica under the leadership of a national plant protection expert working with four expert entomologists from INRA and ANSES. An enquiry into the traceability of the milkwort was also conducted by the DGAL’s National Veterinary and Phytosanitary Investigation Unit (BNEVP).

The initial conclusions reached by this unit were that the French outbreaks differed from previous experience, especially in Italy. Different plants are affected by *Xylella* in this case.

In August 2015 the detection in France of strains belonging exclusively to the multiplex sub-species led the French authorities to request a modification of EU decision 2015/789 to fit this situation (specifically, the list of host plants). An amendment to the decision was published in December 2015.

Various actions have been set in train to maintain vigilance, pursue eradication and extend our knowledge. They are organised in a national action plan published and notified to the European Commission at the end of 2015.
PHYTOSANITARY PRODUCTS:
TRANSFER OF MARKETING AUTHORISATIONS TO ANSES

This transfer of responsibility – for which provision is made in the Law on the Future of Agriculture (LAAAF) of 13 October 2014 – came into force on 2 July 2015. The aim is to rationalise the system for issuance of marketing authorisations for phytopharmaceutical products. The DGAL and ANSES cooperated closely on the implementation of the transfer.

The Ministry of Agriculture continues to be responsible for tracking the EU substance approval procedure, defining acceptable risks for the environment and human health and applying primary production controls on farms and the premises of product distributors.

The Ministry of Agriculture will steer the phytopharmacovigilance system instituted by the LAAAF legislation, the aim being to coordinate all networks for surveillance of unintentional effects caused by phytopharmaceutical products for the environment and human health, in addition to development of resistance.

In the event of a phytosanitary emergency it can also issue marketing authorisations valid for up to 120 days. The relevant decisions are placed in the public domain on the Ministry’s website during the period of validity.

To see them go to: http://agriculture.gouv.fr/produits-phytopharmaceutiques-autorisations-de-mise-sur-le-marche-dune-duree-maximale-de-120-jour

FERTILISERS: SIMPLER REGULATIONS

The rules governing use of fertilisers, fertiliser additives and growing media were modernised and simplified by an ordinance issued on 4 June 2015 and a Conseil d’État decree of 23 July 2015.

The above decree introduces a clearer procedure for marketing authorisations and the use of fertilisers, growing media and fertiliser additives. It clarifies the definition of these materials and other substances and the conditions under which their import, possession for sale, sale and distribution free of charge and their use require official approval. It also details the conditions under which the above activities can be prohibited, restricted and regulated.

The ordinance and the Conseil d’État decree also provide, pursuant to the LAAAF legislation, for the transfer to ANSES of responsibility for issuance of marketing authorisations for the relevant materials, while at the same time simplifying the
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES: PROTECTING THE FUTURE

On 24 December 2015 the DGAL published a decree that lays the foundations of France’s organisational approach to the area of genetic resources with a view to the structure of the national collection and clarification of the roles of those involved.

The goal of plant genetic resource conservation is to guarantee availability of crop biodiversity and to contribute in this way to adapting agriculture to climate change by ensuring, for example, that drought-resistant varieties can be obtained.

The selective breeding and seed production sectors are of strategic importance for France not only for economic reasons but also on sanitary and environmental grounds. Varietal innovation, which plays a dominant role in maintaining competitiveness, is highly reliant on the availability of plant varieties.

It is therefore of fundamental importance for France to possess a national collection of plant genetic resources.

In compliance with its international obligations, France will make that collection available under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

The Ministry of Agriculture allocated €120,000 in 2015 for the purpose and will maintain that support in 2016, allocating €700,000.
03

SAFE, HIGH-QUALITY FOOD FOR ALL

Steering the national food programme (PNA) and guaranteeing food sanitary safety for consumers at every stage in the food chain are core tasks for the DGAL. 2015 was a year in which the DGAL was able to consolidate its system of official controls, ensuring that the risk analysis on which inspection schedules are based is more robust and enhancing follow-up on corrective action in inspected facilities across the whole country. Work has begun to build a system of more integrated surveillance of the food chain with institutional and private-sector stakeholders to protect consumers more effectively.
DIETARY EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: A PRIORITY LEVER FOR ACTION

On the occasion of the Paris International Agricultural Show (SIA) on 24 February, Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, the Minister of Education, and Stéphane Le Foll reaffirmed the importance of dietary education for children.

The Law on the Future of Agriculture (LAAAF) promulgated in October 2014 made dietary education for the young one of the four core priorities for public policy on food.

The LAAAF legislation translated that priority into changes in the code of education law to ensure that information and education on food are dispensed in schools as part of the teaching or regional projects for education.

In order to give operational effect to this policy focus and facilitate its implementation, Najat Vallaud-Belkacem indicated that it would be explicitly set out in the instructions given to chairs of education authorities for the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. A joint letter from both ministers expressed the government’s commitment to it.

The broad lines of the actions on dietary education that can be offered in schools, along with teaching materials (theory classes, taste workshops, culinary workshops, educational visits, etc.) have been made available on the websites of the Ministries of Education and Agriculture.

- http://eduscol.education.fr/education-alimentation
- http://agriculture.gouv.fr/des-outils-pedagogiques-au-service-de-l-education-alimentaire
COMBATTING FOOD WASTE AND ANCOURAGING FOOD DONATIONS

On 14 April 2015 Guillaume Garot, member of parliament for Mayenne, delivered his report on food waste to Ségolène Royal and Stéphane Le Foll. Its main objective is to ensure that the value of food is perceived once again in order to avoid waste as far as possible. It has led to a number of legislative proposals.

On the occasion of the Anti-Food Waste Day on 16 October, a meeting was held of the monitoring committee for the combat against food waste, the membership of which comprises all concerned food industries and official departments.

The national pact signed in 2013 contains eleven measures deriving from consideration of the issues with food chain actors. Numerous measures have been introduced, notably for out-of-home catering (institutional and commercial), distribution, environmental and charitable associations and local government.

Several major programmes are either already ongoing or are planned for 2016:
- Formation of a working group to consider the introduction of changes in regulations on use-by dates;
- Availability of a standard contract for donations to charitable associations by supermarkets and hypermarkets;
- Drafting of a guide to good practice against food waste for hospitals and medico-social units;
- Formation of a working group for discussion of education against food waste for young people and proposal of suitable teaching materials;
- A study to be carried out by ADEME to quantify loss and waste throughout the food chain;
- Launch of a broadly-based awareness-raising campaign on the topic using social media.

Tools have also been produced with a view to making food donations to non-profit associations easier, detailing existing resources and incentives.

Social redistribution of surplus food in Le Mans hospital
2015 CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE NATIONAL FOOD PROGRAMME: INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

In September 2015 the Ministry of Agriculture issued a new call for proposals for the National Food Programme (PNA). In February, Stéphane Le Foll made the awards to the winners of the call for proposals; this enabled nineteen projects to be funded.

Noting the quality of the proposals and the high level of participation, the minister announced prolongation of the call for proposals for 2016. When selecting the winning proposals, emphasis was placed on the regional roots of production based most notably on regional food-related projects and local procurement for institutional catering. The aim of the call, which was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, was to support innovative projects with the intention that they would subsequently be rolled out across the country. Almost 340 proposals were submitted.

The striking involvement of public teaching establishments should be stressed. The selection process involved the regional directorates for food, agriculture and forestry (DRAAFs) and the DGAL, along with a multidisciplinary panel of experts from very diverse backgrounds.

The budget allocated to the projects totalled €600,000 for 2015.

To find out more, go to: http://agriculture.gouv.fr/decouvrez-les-19-laureats-de-l'appel-projetsnational-2014-du-pna

THE COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE CHARCUTERIE SECTOR

The sector is targeting a 5% reduction in average levels of salt and fat in twelve charcuterie products. The agreement signed as part of the French National Food Programme (PNA) is aimed at improving the quality of products placed on the market.

On 4 May 2015 the Minister of Agriculture, Stéphane Le Foll, the president of the national federation of charcuterie, catering and meat processing businesses (FICT), Robert Volut, and the president of the national federation of charcuterie/catering businesses (CNCT), Joël Mauvigney, together signed a collective agreement for the charcuterie sector providing for a cut in the average salt and fat content of their products.

The intention is to enshrine this reduction in the charcuterie industry code of practice, enabling the removal of 15% by volume of the products with the most fat and salt currently marketed in 12 categories.

These nutritional commitments are accompanied by commitments on sustainable development.
CHEMICAL FOOD CONTAMINATION

Foodstuffs can be affected by contaminants of chemical nature and to protect consumers a watch needs to be kept on them.

These forms of contamination can be linked to industrial accidents, environmental pollution of natural origin or historical practices. They take the form of various pollutants: persistent organic pollutants (dioxins, PCBs), heavy metals (lead, cadmium, mercury) and phytosanitary products (chlordecone), for example.

Pollution of this kind can have a sanitary impact on plant products in the geographical areas concerned, as well as on milk and meat from the livestock farms located there. This leads the DGAL to take steps according to each individual situation: a ban on agricultural activity and fishing, product withdrawal, intensified surveillance, etc. In 2015, action of this kind was taken in a number of regions (e.g. the military munitions clearance site of the company Clere & Schwandere in the Meuse, the Alteo plant on the Mediterranean).

THE OUTCOMES OF OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS SOON TO BE MADE PUBLIC

The Law on the Future of Agriculture, Food and Forestry of 13 October 2014 stipulates that the outcomes of official sanitary inspections of agrifood and retail premises should be made public. A study and trials were conducted in 2015.

A study has been conducted in conjunction with trade bodies, consumer associations and the competent official departments and agencies to examine detailed arrangements for a system that would be perceived as straightforward by the general public.

A trial of transparent publication on the ministry’s website of the results of official food sanitary safety inspections in commercial out-of-home catering was conducted in Paris and Avignon from 1 July to 31 December 2015.

This trial has been evaluated and found to be successful. 93% of consumers felt that the scheme was useful and over 65% of catering operators considered it beneficial. The scheme will be rolled out across the country starting on 1 July 2016 to include every establishment and subsequently all food chain premises.

The aim of the scheme is not only to inform consumers of hygiene levels in the relevant outlets but also to enable those sector professionals who have their businesses’ intrinsic sanitary risks fully under control to draw consumers’ attention to that fact. Another effect hoped for is that it will be an incentive to restaurateurs to improve hygiene in their establishments.

Information on the results of official inspections is part of a movement towards greater transparency for official activity in general and official control bodies in particular. This is a legitimate expectation on the part of the general public and consumers and will help restore trust in the food industry.

To find out more, go to: http://agriculture.gouv.fr/transparence-controles-restauration-commerciale
A THIRTY-STRONG NETWORK OF LABORATORIES OF REFERENCE SERVING RISK MANAGEMENT

What are the DGAL's requirements as a risk manager? A seminar on 9 November provided an opportunity for 160 bodies of reference (official departments, national reference laboratories, approved laboratories) to discuss how to improve the system.

In order to perform its tasks as a risk manager in fields relating to sanitary safety the DGAL uses approved laboratories, for which the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) provide scientific supervision. Together, these facilities form reliable and responsive networks.

Various measures have enabled DGAL requirements in its role as risk manager to be defined: changes to regulations, especially the publication of the ordinance on surveillance, test data quality and transmission and accreditation.

The approved laboratories presented a laboratory comparison tool and the NRLs a number of ongoing programmes aimed at improving their relationships with approved laboratories: production of reliable reference materials, inter-laboratory proficiency testing and transfers of reference methodologies.

Following this seminar, the DGAL will notably go on to focus on surveillance, extending the animal health epidemiological surveillance platform, the creation of plant health and “food and zoonotic disease sanitary safety” platforms; ensuring the reliability of data; the Elab study (communication between information systems); continuation of qualification (electronic exchange of results with Sigal/Resytal).

AN OVERHAUL OF INSPECTION TOOLS

The tools used for inspections in the food sanitary safety field have been enhanced and made more straightforward simultaneously with the arrival on line of Resytal, the new DGAL information system.

This change is also accompanied by a reinforcement of the policy on the follow-up to negative inspection outcomes. The new policy was presented to industry federations and unions by the DGAL early in 2016 and the relevant measures came into force on 1 February.

This overhaul of inspection tools had a dual aim: to make the work of the inspectors easier with documents that are simpler to complete (grids and practical inspection guides) and to encourage industry acceptance of inspection reports by making them more comprehensible, with more easily identified points for vigilance. The tools cover all sectors of the industry (meat, milk, egg products, sea...
and freshwater food products) and all stages in the chain (slaughter, catering, processing, etc.). In addition, clearer rules have been defined for evaluating premises.

These changes go hand in hand with a harmonisation of policy on follow-up (e.g. charges, formal notices) to inspections in France in order to ensure application of corrective measures. The range of such actions available to DD(CS)PP and DAAF inspectors has also been extended.

Indeed, new measures have been introduced by the Law on the Future of Agriculture, Food and Forestry: mandatory deposit of designated sums and automatic execution of works to upgrade premises for compliance.

In a letter dated 3 November 2015 the Minister of Agriculture reaffirmed his profound attachment to the state’s inspection duties in slaughterhouses and recalled the various priorities defined for a three-year action plan.

Where food industry premises are concerned, slaughterhouses are premises different from others: to guarantee consumer protection veterinary inspections are constant there. The presence of live animals also entails animal health and protection responsibilities.

The objectives of the action plan are to improve supervision and support for officers performing inspections in slaughterhouses, to gain maximum benefit from their work and to diversify their tasks.

Another important aspect of the plan is the enhancement of the effectiveness of inspections. This objective involves systematic follow-up on observed non-compliance in order to ensure that corrective action is actually taken. It also entails an optimisation of the involvement of government services at the various stages in the slaughter process and the use of data systematically collected in slaughterhouses since 1 January 2015 to target upstream inspections on farms and in food processing premises.

The plan will be implemented in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Animal welfare and protection at every level in the industry and especially at the point of slaughter will be the subject of a specific plan to be introduced during 2016.
REFERENCE CRITERIA FOR HYGIENE IN COMMERCIAL CATERING

In March 2016 an official standard will allow an operator, on a voluntary basis, to highlight the level of hygiene on its premises under a scheme enjoying Ministry of Agriculture “recognition”.

In 2014 the DGAL worked on the drafting of a set of reference criteria for commercial catering premises. The objective was to draw up a list of requirements to be accompanied by a guide to interpretation and a grading system to produce harmonised, reliable and reproducible outcomes reflecting the degree to which an establishment is compliant with regulatory food hygiene requirements.

In 2015 a working group was set up by the AFNOR standards organisation to draw up an approved French industrial standard based on the above reference criteria. A public consultation process was conducted on the proposed text in the last quarter of the year.

EARLY DETECTION OF PHYCOTOXINS IN SHELLFISH

Extensive work was started in 2015 to overhaul the system for monitoring the emergence of phycotoxins, toxins produced by microalgae.

When phycotoxins are present in seawater, shellfish can become contaminated and pose a risk to consumers. A network of surveillance points for phycotoxins in shellfish has been set up along the French coastline. This system, Rephy, is used for the management of the regulated phycotoxins that are habitually encountered and well-known on France’s coasts.

Alongside this, a system for the detection of emerging phycotoxins as yet unknown in France has been in existence since 2010. Such emergence occurs where new types of toxic algae are present and it is linked to factors such as water temperature, nutrient content (nitrates, phosphates) and salinity. It is not possible to predict their presence and they must be detected as early as possible to protect consumers’ health. More tightly targeted and comprehensive chemical tests will be implemented to permit a systematic search for all phycotoxins known around the world that have the potential for emergence in France. A substantial programme of work to develop test methods by ANSES’ marine biotoxins National Reference Laboratory (NRL) and IFREMER has been scheduled for 2016 and 2017.
COMBATING SANITARY CRIME

The French National Veterinary and Phytosanitary Investigation Unit (BNEVP) is a strike force that can be called upon in emergencies by the DGAL. It concentrates on combating organised criminal activities. The fifteen-strong unit conducts enquiries in the field across the whole of France. Its officers have judicial and official powers.

As in previous years, these cases involved a varied range of activities such as the trafficking of dogs, horses, veterinary medicines, foodstuffs and phytopharmaceuticals. Some areas such as illegal copies of phytopharmaceuticals or the trafficking of live animals involving the whole of the European Union require close cooperation with other Members States.

In 2015 60 new cases were investigated by the BNEVP.
UNAUTHORISED MARKETING OF PHYTOPHARMACEUTICALS

In 2015 three “phytopharmaceuticals” cases investigated by the BNEVP resulted in verdicts and fines of up to €65,000.

The cases all involve selling or using phytopharmaceuticals for which no marketing authorisation (AMM) had been issued. The first concerned a major French agricultural cooperative that had organised the use between 2010 and 2013 of five unauthorised phytopharmaceuticals procured from the Netherlands. According to the cooperative, the products provided an urgent response to a need in tomato production, a sector regularly faced with proliferations of whitefly (Aleyrodidae). Despite the fact that commercial specialities with marketing authorisations could be used for this purpose in France, technical staff at the cooperative recommended and arranged for the use of two insecticides in particular that were unauthorised at that time in France: “Oberon” and “Movento”.

The investigation, conducted in partnership with OCLAESP (Central Office for the Prevention of Damage to the Environment and Public Health), brought to light 22 breaches of the code of environmental law and the code of rural law.

Although the investigation did not reveal that any of these offences were "such as to pose a risk to the health of consumers", the cooperative was found guilty in October 2015 and the public prosecutor ordered it to pay a fine of €65,000.

Two other enterprises involved in this case will be appearing in court in the near future: the supplier of the unauthorised products and an industry grouping that advised their use.

The third case concerned an investigation conducted by the BNEVP involving a company in the north of France suspected of selling phytopharmaceuticals without a marketing authorisation, patent infringement and misrepresentation.

The Arras regional court issued a conviction in November 2015: a fine of €8,000, €4,000 of which was suspended, was imposed on the statutory manager of the company and a fine of €20,000 on the company itself.
FRAUD RELATING TO SANITARY TESTING OF PIGMEAT

A major French agrifood company was found guilty in 2015 of falsifying test results over the period 2010-2012 in order to comply with the sanitary requirements of various customers based in France and abroad. It is estimated that the company sold 2,000 tonnes of salmonella-contaminated pigmeat.

The case was picked up by local DD(CS)PP staff surprised to receive systematically favourable test results from the company. Unannounced inspections of its production lines rapidly revealed that certain meats, although declared compliant by the company, were in fact contaminated by microorganisms and therefore normally of lesser market value.

Once alerted, the BNEVP decided to intervene in order to verify the suspicions of fraud and bring the matter before the courts. The investigation, conducted in close conjunction with the national Gendarmerie’s search section and OCLAESP, swiftly produced proof. By falsifying the results of testing, the agrifood company sought to sell at a higher price meat that would normally be sold via processed meat channels offering less profit than for fresh meat.

The court judgement for misrepresentation and concealment was handed down in March 2015. This was followed by consideration of sentencing in chambers scheduled for July. Following consideration, the penalties imposed by the court were particularly severe for the company: the head of production was sentenced to 24 months’ imprisonment, suspended, and the two “Quality” managers to 4 months’ imprisonment, also suspended. The company as a legal entity was ordered to pay a fine of €150,000 plus €2.5 million as a penalty for undue prejudice. Finally, legal damages were paid to two consumer associations registered as civil plaintiffs in the proceeding.
ANIMAL PROTECTION: COMBATING DOG TRAFFICKING IN THE SAVOY REGION

Two managers of a dog kennels/breeding establishment in the Savoy region of France, suspected of trafficking dogs from Eastern Europe, were interviewed by police in April 2015. The DGAL’s National Veterinary and Phytosanitary Investigation Unit (BNEVP) took part in the enquiries.

Ten animals were confiscated and handed over to the Paris area Society for the Protection of Animals. They were pedigree dogs placed on the market despite having arrived from Slovakia. A veterinarian, also interviewed by police, is suspected of having facilitated such sales in France. The dogs, purchased in Slovakia, were being sold on in Savoy at pet shows at much higher prices. The accused veterinarian denies all charges.

The breeding establishment had been under surveillance due to the fact that for some three years the constantly increasing numbers of puppies it was selling were incompatible with its actual breeding capacity. It had also been subject to a prefectural closure order for non-compliance with mandatory standards in its facilities.

In January 2016 the court imposed heavy sentences on the traffickers and fines for the implicated veterinarians.

This form of trafficking enables French breeders to sell large numbers of puppies sourced abroad as if they had been bred in their own facilities. The dogs frequently possess no identification and have not been vaccinated against rabies; they have no sanitary documentation. Mandatory breeding and transportation conditions are not respected, especially where hygiene and animal welfare are concerned.

Traffickers often use small ads to attract potential buyers and develop their illegal activities. Ordinance 2015-1243 of 7 October 2015 should ultimately make investigators’ work easier by requiring all vendors of pets to register as professional breeders.
SANITARY ALERTS AND CRISSES

The DGAL’s sanitary emergencies unit (MUS) handles over one thousand alerts each year. In 2015, it was mobilised to a high level in the animal health field due to avian influenza, bluetongue, one case of rabies and cases of West Nile disease. Where plants were concerned it also handled the *Xylella fastidiosa* alert in Corsica and the Provence-Alps-Riviera region and a number of alerts relating to pesticides detected in plants.

However, it was food-related alerts and cases of collective food poisoning that made up the bulk of this activity: for example, salmonella in cheeses made from unpasteurised milk, listeria in chitterlings, cases of botulism connected with consumption of spaghetti bolognese, histamines in fish, broken glass in canned food and infants falling sick after eating moussaka.

The following is a presentation of a few “atypical” cases that required considerable effort from the MUS and the devolved services in the départements (DDecPPs).
DETECTION OF XYLELLA ON PLANTS IN CORSICA AND THE PROVENCE-ALPS-RIVIERA REGION

On 22 July 2015 the ANSES plant health laboratory detected the bacterium Xylella fastidiosa in a sample of myrtle-leaf milkwort (Polygala mytrifolia) from Propriano in southern Corsica. Immediately after detection on 22 July of the first case, crisis units were set up in the region (in the DRAAF’s regional food department – SRAL) and in the DGAL.

The sanitary emergencies unit (MUS) supported the Corsica SRAL, followed by the Provence-Alps-Riviera SRAL, in managing the outbreaks: recording cases, passing on recommendations from national level, followed by epidemiological investigations and the production of weekly status reports.

MUS support enabled the management of outbreaks to be harmonised and the technical issues to be submitted to the experts for decisions. This operational approach, similar to the one adopted for managing certain epizootic outbreaks, will be included in the national sanitary emergency intervention plan for plants.

TRICHINELLOSIS IN CORSICA

Three individuals fell ill with trichinellosis after eating uncooked “figattelle” sausage. The diagnosis of trichinellosis was confirmed by tests on the food the patients had eaten. The DDPP was able to identify the livestock farm of provenance of the products, which was located near an endemic area in Corsica.

Trichinella are worms parasitic on certain mammals and are capable of causing trichinellosis, a disease communicable to human beings and potentially a cause of serious health issues due to consumption of uncooked or lightly cooked meat from contaminated animals.
COLLECTIVE FOOD POISONING IN DAY NURSERIES

In October 2015 eight cases of collective food poisoning were declared in day nurseries in the Greater Paris area. Thirty-four infants presented with similar symptoms, all similar to allergic reactions.

Given the simultaneous nature of the cases, an investigation was immediately undertaken in conjunction with the regional health agency (ARS), leading to the finding that all the infants had eaten moussaka from the same producer.

Testing of the suspect product by an ANSES laboratory revealed low levels of histamine. The laboratory was able to show that the histamine content in the moussaka was close to the level naturally present in aubergines. The symptoms observed in the nursery were therefore probably due to the high sensitivity of certain very young children to histamine. The company involved was advised henceforth to offer its moussaka to canteens for adults.

SALMONELLA, STEAK PATTIES AND CHARITY RESTAURANTS

Two cases of salmonellosis occurred in northern France in January and February 2015 linked to consumption of frozen steak patties produced in Poland and distributed via the Restaurants du Cœur charity outlets.

A single batch was identified as responsible for the 16 cases in the first episode (end December to end January) following the establishment of an epidemiological link between the patients and the patties they had eaten and a traceability enquiry relating to the foodstuffs consumed. The producer, after discovering salmonella in testing, had placed the product on the market following further tests with favourable results, removing the part of the batch that had tested positive. The product was withdrawn from sale and posters were placed in retail outlets to recall products from the batch concerned.

The products concerned, figatelle sausages, had been sold direct to the consumer. The DGAL provided support to the DDPP in its enquiries, which led to a charge of operating a clandestine slaughterhouse and confiscation of the season’s charcuterie due to a lack of traceability.

The customers were informed individually and by local press release. A campaign was conducted in order to make consumers more aware of the need to cook raw pork products and to remind health professionals of the symptoms of the condition.
In the second episode (24 cases in the Somme and two cases in the Pas de Calais in February-March), enquiries revealed a very high level of contamination in products from the suspect batch. It proved possible to test steak patties still present in the homes of patients. The products were withdrawn from sale and those that had been sold were recalled by press release on 8 March, accompanied by posters and information to beneficiaries in distribution centres.

A block was immediately put on all batches by the Restaurants du Cœur on 3 March 2015. A decision was reached in early 2016 to withdraw the products since they were considered hazardous.

This alert is a perfect example of the investment of effort by devolved services and effective coordination between health (InVS, DGS, ARS), veterinary (DDecPP, DGAI) and scientific (ANSES) agencies.

RE-EMERGENCE OF THE WEST NILE VIRUS IN THE CAMARGUE

Detection of the first cases of West Nile viral infection in equids at the end of August 2015 led to an assessment and collegial management of the risk in close conjunction with the Ministry of Health.

West Nile virus infection is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes mainly affecting horses and human beings; it can lead to serious neurological complications (meningoencephalitis).

Surveillance of new cases in horses made it possible to monitor its geographical spread and intensity and thereby to take suitable steps for prevention and protection of the population (reinforced surveillance in healthcare and blood donation facilities, communication directed at the general public resident in infected areas). In total, between the end of August and the end of October 49 horses and 1 person were infected.

This re-emergence event demonstrated the relevance and effectiveness of the interministerial protocol introduced following the last epizootic episode in 2003.

LIVESTOCK FEED: SALMONELLA IN SOY CAKE

During the summer the DGAL emergencies unit handled two alerts due to the presence of Salmonella typhimurium in soy cake imported in large quantities from Brazil and India. Most of the suspect cake had been delivered to plants manufacturing livestock feed and had already been consumed.

Those alerts led to a major joint effort by DGCCRF and DGAL to track the commercial distribution of the feedstuffs.

Their investigation led to the withdrawal of the feed that had not yet been consumed and which had been intended for the most sensitive species (breeding and laying poultry). Reinforced sanitary monitoring was put in place for flocks of the most vulnerable species that had consumed the contaminated feed.
06

MANAGEMENT & ORGANISATION

Programming and managing human and budgetary resources under the “Food Sanitary Safety and Quality” programme, quality-based management, coordination of controls and overhauling the food information system: all these are core tasks of the sub-directorate for the management of resources and horizontal action, ensuring that the directorate enjoys good governance and has operational instruments that are both modern and effective.
RESYTAL: THE DGAL’S NEW INFORMATION SYSTEM – ONE MORE STEP FORWARD IN 2015.

2015 was a key year in the roll-out of Resytal, the DGAL’s new information system, with the availability of tools for the management of inspections of premises in the plant domain and preparation of deployment for food sanitary safety and animal health and protection.

Its goal: to become a shared, highly effective and easy-to-use resource for all staff, providing information in real time on the status of the sanitary situation in the animal, plant and food-related domains.

January 2015 was marked by the deployment in DRAAFs and DAAFs of various “application bricks” for Resytal (sets of reference criteria for users, inspection management, etc.).

During the first half of the year, the SI2A application (slaughterhouse product inspections) was stabilised after having encountered major issues in the management of its successive versions. It is now totally operational and is in everyday use by approximately 1,700 staff in 220 slaughterhouses.

Other bricks were finalised during the year:
- “Risk analysis”
- “Inspection scheduling and management”
- “Management of official and criminal law follow-up”
- Inclusion of assessment grids and practical inspection guides in the “Inspection Methods” brick.
- Inclusion of establishments and workshops in Resytal for User management.

In 2015, forty or so in-house trainers led over 600 training sessions, helping ensure a satisfactory level of ownership of the new tools by the entire working community.
IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DGAL’S NATIONAL SYSTEM OF VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY EXPERTISE

The building of a DGAL network of experts, referents and resource-persons is aimed at maintaining and consolidating the Ministry’s technical skills, acting as a genuine “marker” for the Ministry of Agriculture, Agri-food and Forestry.

Its aim is also to respond to the more specific constraints of the DGAL’s core tasks of control and protection of public health and the environment. The system comprises 35 full-time national experts of reference and more than 10 “resource persons”, part of whose working week is devoted to the network under the authority of the DGAL.

The objectives pursued are the following:

- To consolidate internal capacity for expertise in risk management to guarantee the effectiveness of the French sanitary system;
- To drive the expert network in the common interest of departments and staff.

With a dual ambition: both to retain the proximity to the field necessary for action as close as possible to stakeholders, aiming to inform and support government action, and to formalise and improve the guidance of the national network of experts of reference in order to pool their skills and their inputs.

The creation in the Ministry of COSE, the expertise policy and monitoring commission, is intended over time to lead to recognition of specialist qualifications for certain members of the national system of expertise.

PRIORITISATION
OF FOOD SANITARY SAFETY:
AN EXPANSION IN STAFFING

This prioritisation led in 2015 to the creation of 60 extra posts for enhanced sanitary controls throughout the food chain, thus underpinning the fulfilment of the government’s core obligations.

The DGAL must also ensure adherence to France’s European commitments in this area and cope with new issues: the development of organised criminal activity, increased trade flows, the emergence or re-emergence of animal and plant sanitary hazards, the development of antibiotic resistance, and so on.
New posts have therefore been created to enhance performance of tasks relating to inspection, especially in slaughterhouses, export certification and management of outbreaks of animal diseases and plant pests. The vast majority of the extra posts have been created at the level of the départements, in DD(CS)PPs (80%).

The 2016 finance bill provides for a further increase of staffing by 60 FTEs (full-time equivalents). The priorities announced for 2016 are a stepping up of slaughterhouse controls, activities relating to veterinary and phytosanitary export certification, controls on direct supply (shops and restaurants) and management of outbreaks of animal diseases and plant pests.

QUALITY-BASED MANAGEMENT: CONTINUATION OF THE PROCESS-ORIENTED APPROACH

In addition to the management process, three of the four operational processes identified in the DGAL process map were described and rolled out in 2015: “Inspection”, “Public Policy” and “Regulations & Incentive Measures”. Similarly, two support processes out of four are now available to the work community: “Communication” and “Information System”.

The application of the principles set out in the descriptive summaries are intended over time to departmentalise organisational departments, optimise resource management and promote measures for simplification and improvement for the benefit of all concerned.

Audits of the management and inspection processes began during the second quarter in the central administration and the devolved services. The objective is to support the application of the approach in the organisational entities and to highlight observed strengths and good practice in order to share them with the entire work community.

The management process audit report was delivered to the Director General at the end of January and published.

This approach, which is shared with the DGCCRF (General Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control) is intended to optimise the functioning of departmental directorates for which the interministerial component is essential.

Finalisation of the remaining process descriptions and performance of process audits and reviews have been scheduled for 2016. A general review will also be carried out for risk management and interfaced with the internal control system currently in place in the Ministry of Agriculture.
The DGAL is a participant in the proceedings and negotiations of EU institutions in the sanitary and phytosanitary domains. Specifically, in 2015 it tracked European negotiations on neonicotinoids, plant health and regulations on official controls.

The DGAL has been particularly vigilant with regard to the still-ongoing negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, more commonly known as the EU-USA agreement.

With a view to opening up markets, it has welcomed numerous delegations from third countries coming to inspect our facilities or audit our sanitary or phytosanitary system. For example, it has hosted two fact-finding missions from the United States, one on milk, the other on meat, in addition to...
an Indonesian mission on the sanitary safety of foodstuffs of plant origin and an Egyptian mission on potato plants.

The DGAL cooperates with many countries in order to share its technical expertise: most notably, it welcomed a delegation from Chad for support to the introduction of the seed industry and one from Algeria in connection with animal identification.

In 2015, the DGAL also supported the Summer School of the National Veterinary Training College (ENSV) for veterinary officers from more than a dozen countries. In recent years over 80 foreign executive staff have been trained by the ENSV on governance and national and international sanitary regulations.

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**NUMBER OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS WELCOMED ON AUDIT OR INSPECTION MISSIONS**
24 delegations from 15 different countries

**NUMBER OF VISITS ABROAD:**
13

**NUMBER OF BILATERAL MEETINGS ON ANIMALS OR PLANTS:** 59

**NUMBER OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS WELCOMED IN THE AREA OF COOPERATION**
ONE per month on average

**PARTICIPATION IN FOUR JOINT AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEES**
THE CONSEQUENCES OF SANITARY CRISSES FOR EXPORTS

In 2015 the DGAL was impacted by three sanitary crises with more or less serious export repercussions for the sectors involved.

- *Xylella fastidiosa*, the “olive tree killer”, detected in Corsica and in south-easter France on myrtle-leaf milkwort;

Some third countries have made changes to their import regulations, and others have asked for further information from the DGAL on France’s sanitary situation where *Xylella* is concerned.

- Bluetongue, detected in September 2015 in central France, impacting the cattle and sheep sectors;
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), detected in November 2015 in the southwest of the country, affecting the poultry sector.

The DGAL and the economic sections of our embassies went immediately into action to lift superfluous trade restrictions, with some countries accepting animals and products only from totally disease-free countries where bluetongue and influenza are concerned.

With the help of the European Commission, the DGAL negotiated acceptance of the principle of regionalisation, i.e. a block on exports not from France as a whole but only from the regulated area. Confidence in France’s sanitary safety system has been and will continue to be a condition for ensuring continuation of trade relationships.

Where avian influenza is concerned, a national “export” crisis unit has been set up by the DGAL and meets every week to define, alongside sector professionals, priorities for action with regard to third countries that are France’s customers. ■

Charolais ewes
FRANCE–CHINA: PROMISING DISCUSSIONS

In 2015 the DGAL was able to strengthen ties with the Chinese sanitary authorities and make progress for French exports.

A number of visits to China have been made by the French authorities to promote the French food sanitary safety system and the quality of French products.

The head of the DGAL, Patrick Dehau-mont, travelled to China in April 2015 in connection with the World Dairy Expo & Summit in Harbin. On that occasion he emphasised the special character of the French market offering, notably founded on high performance in three domains: sanitary, environmental and economic.

High-level institutional meetings have provided opportunities to discuss sticking points such as the embargoes relating to BSE and Schmallenberg virus affecting the ruminant sector, as well as official approvals for French agrifood establishments (e.g. infant milk, charcuterie).

The DGAL also participated in a seminar on the “new silk roads” in May 2015 in Chongqing. This concerned cooperation on animal and plant inspection and quarantine and ways of encouraging trade in agricultural products (animals, plants, foodstuffs).

France’s secretary of state for foreign trade, Matthias Fekl, also visited China in September 2015 accompanied by the deputy head of the DGAL, Chief Veterinary Officer Loïc Evain, and a delegation of forty or so industry professionals.

During November 2015, 18 French agrifood establishments were audited by the CNCA, the Chinese body responsible for issuing official approvals. Six sectors were audited: infant milk, charcuterie, pigmeat, poultry meat, foie gras and aquaculture. The conclusions from this audit mission are expected in the first quarter of 2016.

It is worth noting that the first exports of French charcuterie products began on 1 March 2015 following several years of negotiation and discussion.
EMBARGOES LIFTED

AFTER FRANCE OBTAINS « NEGLIGIBLE BSE RISK» STATUS

At the end of May 2015 the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) awarded France “negligible risk” status for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or “mad cow disease”. The consequence: a number of countries have lifted their embargoes on French beef.

The above sanitary status is reserved for countries that have demonstrated complete control in this area and where the birth of the last case of BSE (April 2004 in the case of France) dates back over ten years. France’s previous status was “controlled BSE risk”, an already favourable level.

After five years of negotiation, on 23 September 2015 the South African authorities agreed to lift the embargo on deboned beef and offal imposed on French bovine products since the BSE crisis. Negotiations are continuing on reopening the South African market to non-deboned beef.

This decision follows on from others, among them that reached by the Vietnamese government on 2 September last. Canada and Saudi Arabia have also lifted their embargoes, on 5 and 8 October respectively.

Negotiations are ongoing for the lifting of others (Argentina, Brazil, China, South Korea, Taiwan) in order to support beef sector exporters.
PLANTS IMPORTS:
TOWARDS A COMPROMISE ON PREVENTIVE STRATEGY

Negotiations are in progress with EU institutions on a draft European plant health regulation. The most animated discussions concerned import controls on plants for prevention of the introduction of new parasites harmful to our agricultural sector and environment. The clash was between two competing strategies.

The first is the basis for current legislation whereby 70% of plant tonnage imported into the European Union can be brought in with no controls at all. This legislation, over 30 years old, has been progressively amended as and when new parasites have appeared in the European Union. Since the eradication of such parasites is very difficult, costly and environmentally harmful, this reactive strategy has shown itself to be unfit for purpose.

However, the Commission, along with a majority of Member States, wanted to keep to this strategy in the new legislation.

Conversely, France advocated a preventive strategy aimed at reassessing import sectors before problems occur in order to adjust import controls accordingly. This strategy is the one adopted by the European Union for import controls on animals and animal products. Moreover, where plants are concerned, it is applied by most of our trade partners such as the United States, Thailand, India, Russia and Brazil. Since this strategy is more demanding, it has the effect of making our exports to those countries more difficult than their imports to the European Union. This imbalance penalises French and European exporters.

After much discussion, France succeeded in convincing a sufficient number of partners for the adoption at Council level in June 2015 of a compromise that includes the essential points of the desired system: the preventive strategy would apply to plants intended for planting and to most plants intended for consumption, such as fruit and vegetables.

The final compromise should be adopted during 2016.
COMMUNICATION

In the strategic plan drawn up by the DGAL for the years 2013-2015, a major role is allocated to communication and highlighting the value of the DGAL’s activities, with a view specifically to explaining that government action and public policies are intended above all to benefit the general public.

The following are some examples of the communication programmes conducted in 2015:
RABIES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Aimed at preventing the introduction of rabies into France via movements of contaminated animals from abroad.

The programmes conducted in this area are based around:
• An information campaign targeting those involved in prevention (especially veterinarians) and aimed at maintaining a high level of vigilance in a context of zero prevalence of the disease.
• An information campaign targeting pet owners on the need to prepare their journeys abroad with their pets in advance and dissuade them from bringing animals back from trips.

PLANT IMPORTS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR TRAVELLERS

A “Don’t bring back plants in your bags” poster has been displayed widely, especially in ports and airports, in connection with the publication of a new official order in January 2015 setting quantities of plants and plant products that can be brought back, on an exceptional basis, in travellers’ personal luggage. This is needed because plants and plant products can be vectors for organisms harmful to plant production and the environment.

LAUNCH OF THE ECOPHYTO II PLAN

Communication also supported the launch of the Ecophyto II plan and led to the continued dissemination of effective farming methods that are both very effective and economical in their use of phytosanitary products through demonstration days on farms in the Dephy network, thematic day events in the regions and a conference on research projects organised as part of the Ecophyto plan (13-14 October 2015).
## THE DGAL IN FIGURES:
### 2015 INSPECTION AND CONTROL FIGURES

The DGAL is staffed by 4,800 full-time equivalents (FTEs), plus 14,000 government-approved sanitary veterinarians, 30 national reference laboratories and around 150 specialist test laboratories, most at département level.

### Import Controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imported goods</th>
<th>Number of batches checked</th>
<th>Numbers of batches refused entry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animals and animal products</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant and plant products</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal feedstuffs of non-animal origin</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Annual surveillance programme for contamination of primary products, foodstuffs and feedstuffs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Samples taken in 2014</th>
<th>Samples found non-compliant in 2014</th>
<th>Samples scheduled in 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALs, including:</strong></td>
<td><strong>59,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>883</strong></td>
<td><strong>58,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicochemical contaminants* in animal products</td>
<td>48,700</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>48,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological contaminants ** and toxins in animal products</td>
<td>6,700</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phytosanitary residues in primary plant production</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contaminants in products imported from third countries</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3% of imported batches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotic resistance in commensal and zoonotic bacteria</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Veterinary medicines, anabolic agents, banned substances, environmental and industrial contaminants.

** Bacteria (e.g. *Salmonella, E. coli* STEC), viruses, parasites.

The results of the 2015 campaign will be available in the PSPC report to be published in 2016.
### Animal health and protection controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal protection</th>
<th>Number of inspections</th>
<th>Follow-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL including:</td>
<td>12,200</td>
<td>530 formal notices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmed livestock</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock transportation</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pets</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equids</td>
<td>700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal experimentation</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In slaughterhouses</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Plant quality and protection controls

The purpose of these controls is to verify the conditions in which phytosanitary products are used and sold.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of inspections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checks on users of phytosanitary products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checks on phytosanitary products at the distribution stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checks on compliance with hygiene rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checks performed for issuance of the EU phytosanitary passport</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Public health on livestock farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public health on livestock farms</th>
<th>Number of inspections</th>
<th>Follow-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL including:</td>
<td>17,450</td>
<td>230 formal notices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary inspections on farm premises</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>9,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary pharmacy</td>
<td>750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal by-products</td>
<td>370</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal feed</td>
<td>350</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproduction</td>
<td>180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Food sanitary safety controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal protection</th>
<th>Number of inspections</th>
<th>Follow-up</th>
<th>comprising:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Warnings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL, including:</td>
<td>76,000</td>
<td>14,200</td>
<td>8,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaughter*, processing and storage facilities</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional catering</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial catering outlets</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shops</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentary inspections</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This figure includes only the annual inspections of slaughterhouses, where veterinary staff also have a permanent inspection role.
PUBLICATION DIRECTOR
Patrick Dehaumont

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