

The French National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO)



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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
DE L'AGROALIMENTAIRE
ET DE LA FORÊT

1. Our main missions

1.1 Objectives

To guarantee plant quality and protection in the service of economically and ecologically successful agriculture.

The NPPO therefore aims to:

- Monitor plant production health,
- Combat health dangers affecting plants, particularly regulated or emerging pests,
- Guide plant selection according to expectations and guarantee seed health quality,
- Authorize and inspect material inputs, phytopharmaceuticals, fertilizers, crop supports and genetically modified plants, and monitor their environmental impact,
- Inspect plant imports and certify exports,
- Monitor forest health and support health managers,
- Guarantee health at the primary plant production stage.



1.2 Missions

To regulate and organize a system of monitoring and control that guarantees plant health safety in France and in all plant environments (crops, forests, non-agricultural public and private areas, natural environments, etc.) against regulated or emerging pests.

1.2.1. Regulate

Plant health and protection are skills shared between the European Union and its Member States. Regulations in these fields are largely standardized throughout Europe, mainly through European directive 2000/29/CE (currently under revision) which particularly determines the list of quarantine pests. These are plant pests whose entry into and spread over France are subject to state-led control measures.

The DGAL participates in drafting European regulations, draws up national regulations and monitors application.

The DGAL participates in European and international negotiations to set out the standards of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

1.2.2 Organizing a system of monitoring and control

This involves:

- Inspecting and certifying:

The production and trade of plants in the European Union. In accordance with European regulations, French national authorities (DRAAF) and their delegates (FREDON, GNIS, SOC - the French Official Inspection and Certification Service, CTIFL - the French Technical Interprofessional Center for Fruits and Vegetables, and FranceAgriMer) carry out an inspection at least once per year in all production operations and organizations that are subject to the European plant passport measures (namely for seeds and seedlings) which ensures that plants in circulation in the EU comply with European phytosanitary regulations. 7,000 producers and 1,200 non-producing distributors are thus inspected annually. For the latter, the frequency of these inspections varies according to the nature of the plants held and the corresponding regulatory requirements.

For imported plants and plant products, the Department of Phytosanitary and Veterinary Border Inspection (SIVEP) was created in 2010 within the Ministry of Agriculture. It groups together recognized border inspection posts including the 32 "European Union Entry Points" (EEPs) where imported plants and plant products are inspected. They must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin when required by European regulations.

About 50,000 batches are inspected upon import and 1,000 batches are rejected every year.

For exported plants and plant products, phytosanitary certificates ensuring that plants are in compliance with phytosanitary requirements of the third countries concerned are issued by the DRAAFs (regional French government departments) and the DAAFs (French overseas territories).

About 75,000 phytosanitary certificates are issued every year, by the 22 DRAAFs and 5 DAAFs.



Seed and seedling quality: in accordance with European regulations, the seeds and seedlings of a large number of plant species are subject to additional inspection (compulsory or voluntary depending on the case) for marketing in the European Union. These inspections are carried out at the moment of production and marketing, on the basis of phytosanitary criteria (absence of non-quarantine pests) that are either physical (germination capacity, etc.) or identity-based (varietal identity, etc.). In France, these inspections are carried out by FranceAgriMer for wood and vine seedlings, by the CTIFL for reproductive fruit stock and by the GNIS/SOC for other seeds and seedlings.

Other inspections: the DRAAF regional authorities are responsible for primary production health inspections (about 400 plant producers are inspected every year). They are also responsible for the marketing and use of phytosanitary products, fertilizers and crop supports: about 7,000 of pesticides users are inspected every year (farmers, municipalities...) and suppliers as well (cooperatives, traders, garden centers...). During these controls, plant samples are taken to check compliance with the maximum residue limits (MRLs) of pesticides (1800 samples each year).



How is monitoring carried out?

- Monitoring plans implemented by regional French authorities (DRAAFs) or their delegates (FREDON). These plans are specifically defined for certain sectors or for certain priority pests that are regulated, emerging or of export interest.
- An epidemiology surveillance network comprising 13,320 observation plots and 4,000 observers. Epidemiological data is collected and assessed collegially between the different parties and is then released as a plant health report (BSV). Every year, 3,000 plant health reports are published.



Monitoring and informing:

Why do we monitor?

Territorial biological supervision (SBT) is at the core of the Ministry of Agriculture's service missions. For several decades, it has been organized:

- to understand the phytosanitary situation in France,
- to ascertain the country's status regarding regulated or emerging pests in France, in the European Union, or in third countries that import our plant products,
- to improve the quality-based reasoning behind pest control methods,
- to make it possible for any unintended effects of agricultural practices to be detected and monitored,
- to track the emergence of any resistance to phytopharmaceuticals (400 samples analyzed per year). collected and assessed collegially between the different parties and is then released as a plant health report (BSV). Every year, 3,000 plant health reports are published.

- A network of 220 on-the-ground forest health correspondents/observers who make it possible to understand the impact of climate change and the breakdown of pests and pathogens by focusing on the risk of pests and emerging diseases being introduced.

The health conditions for the export and phytosanitary certification of exported plants and plant products are available through the [Exp@don](#) application.

<https://teleprocedures.franceagrimer.fr/Portail/DetailAppli.aspx?appli=EXPADON>

Indeed, given the regular developments and changes to third country phytosanitary regulations which become more frequent with the increase of international trade, this tool makes regulations directly accessible on line to both operating organizations, thus facilitating export procedures, and to French authorities responsible for official certification. This system, available on-line, makes it possible both to standardize and increase the effectiveness of French government initiatives regarding phytosanitary export certification, and to update health certificate models with the aim of constantly adapting to and complying with changes made to third country phytosanitary statutes.

- Pest control

Any detection or suspicion of the presence of a quarantine pest by the plant owner or holder, or by any person with phytosanitary expertise, must be immediately reported to French authorities. Upon official confirmation, the NPPO informs the European Commission and the EPPO of the detection. The EPPO subsequently passes the information on to the IPPC.

In the event of detection, compulsory control measures may be ordered by French authorities to ensure that the pest is eradicated or halted.

Pests are now subject to prioritization and categorization according to their phytosanitary, environmental and socio-economic impact, which consequently makes it possible to optimize resource allocation.

For the most dangerous and troubling pests, contingency plans are devised to prepare all parties for implementing control measures.

The plant owner or holder has primary responsibility for carrying out compulsory control measures; such measures are monitored by French authorities (DRAAF) or their delegates (FREDON).

- Risk prevention

Professionals made aware of their responsibilities are encouraged in the pest risk prevention procedure, particularly through the drafting of phytosanitary best practice guidelines.

In particular, production organizations (especially nurseries) are encouraged to set up phytosanitary control plans, which ensure the implementation of internal risk management procedures within these organizations.

The development of biological control methods is encouraged by ensuring the absence of risks for plant health and biodiversity emanating from the introduction of exotic biological control auxiliaries into the environment.

- Risk assessment: ANSES / LSV

As the reference laboratory, ANSES / LSV is responsible for conducting phytosanitary risk analyses to guide the NPPO's decisions. It has a specific team of plant health experts.



2. Our organization

The Directorate General for Food (*Direction Générale de l'Alimentation* or DGAL), within the Ministry of Agriculture, is the French National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) under the terms of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The NPPO is placed under the responsibility of the Chief Plant Officer (CPO) / Chief Phytosanitary Officer of Plant Health Services (COPHS). NPPO projects are carried out by two sub-directorates within the DGAL - the Sub-Directorate for Plant Quality and Protection (SDQPV) and the Sub-Directorate for European and International Health Affairs (SDASEI). On the ground, NPPO projects are carried out or supervised by the plant protection departments within the Regional Food Departments (*Services Régionaux de l'Alimentation* or SRAL) of the 22 Regional Directorates for Agriculture, Agri-food and Forests (DRAAF) for mainland France, and the Food Departments (SALIM) of the 5 Directorates for Agriculture, Agri-food and Forests (DAAF) of French overseas territories.

The NPPO thus sets out and manages the French strategy for plant protection.

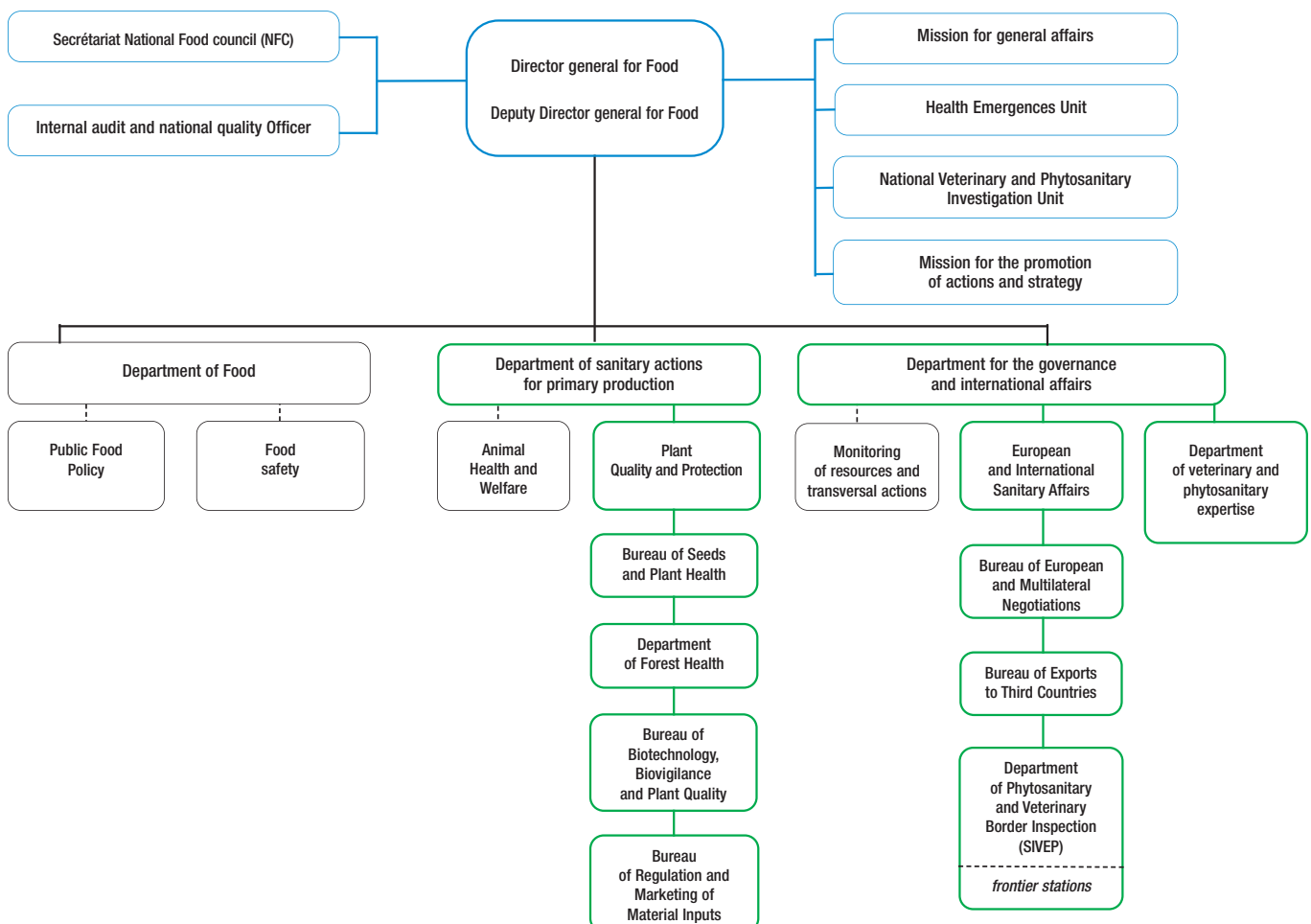
2.1 Head Office: the French Directorate General for Food (DGAL)

DGAL monitors the safety and quality of food at all stages of the food chain, as well as the health of plants and animals in coordination with the different stakeholders.

It is responsible for regulating and organizing a system to guarantee plant health safety in France and in all plant environments (crops, forests, non-agricultural public areas, natural environments, etc.) against regulated or emerging pests.

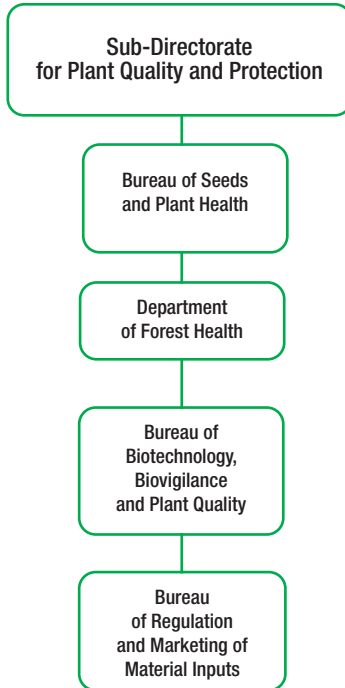
It establishes the legal provisions corresponding to its missions and controls their application with the support of the decentralised services.

Organization Chart of the French Directorate General for Food



The **French CPO (Chief Phytosanitary Officer) / COPHS (Chief Officer of Plant Health Services)** is in charge of the department of sanitary actions for primary production.

The **Sub-Directorate for Plant Quality and Protection (SDQPV)** groups together the following departments and bureaus.



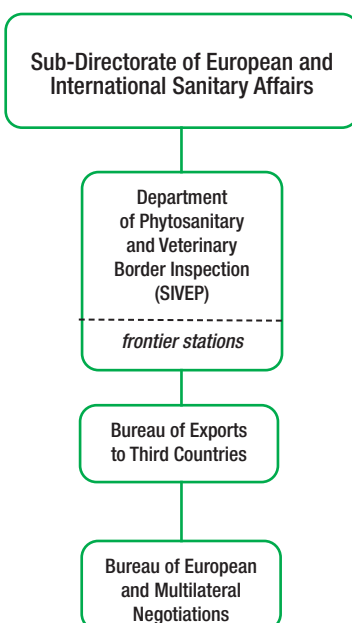
- The **Bureau of Seeds and Plant Health** drafts, implements and assesses policies in the field of regulated and emerging plant pests. Its tasks include monitoring and controlling quarantine pests. It also supervises organizations responsible for implementing and regulating the marketing and certification of seeds and seedlings, and drafts the guiding policy for plant selection and ensures that it is implemented.

- The **Department of Forest Health** is responsible for monitoring the phytosanitary conditions of forests, risk assessment, supporting public and private forest managers and drafting information on forest health.

- The **Bureau of Biotechnology, Biovigilance and Plant Quality** monitors the biological conditions of France, ensuring satisfactory sanitary and phytosanitary conditions of plants and tracking any unintended environmental effects of agricultural practices. It is responsible for inspecting the testing and marketing of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) as well as the distribution and use of phytosanitary products. It manages the Ecophyto plan which aims to reduce pesticide use and promotes sensible use of phytosanitary products and integrated pest management.

- Furthermore, within this sub-directorate, the **Bureau of Regulation and Marketing of Material Inputs** monitors European regulations concerning the marketing of phytosanitary products, fertilizers and crop supports. It delivers marketing authorizations following assessment and approval from the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES).

Within the department for the governance and international affairs, the **Sub-Directorate of European and International Sanitary Affairs (SDASEI)** groups together the following departments and bureaus.



- The **Department of Phytosanitary and Veterinary Border Inspection (SIVEP)**, is a nationwide service responsible for implementing and monitoring the sanitary and phytosanitary inspection framework at the borders. It manages 32 "EEPs," entry points to the European Union, including French overseas territories (see map on next page).

- The **Bureau of Exports to Third Countries** determines the sanitary and phytosanitary certification details for exports to third countries (i.e., outside the European Union). It negotiates the health and phytosanitary conditions for exporting French agricultural and agri-food products. To carry out this task, it relies on the French public agency "FranceAgriMer" (export support unit).

- The **Bureau of European and Multilateral Negotiations** ensures coherence between the positions adopted vis-à-vis European Union institutions and relevant international organizations. It monitors international negotiations carried out by the European Commission in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) fields. It is the national contact for the Agreement on the Application of SPS Measures of the WTO (World Trade Organization).

2.2 Operational authority over the decentralised services

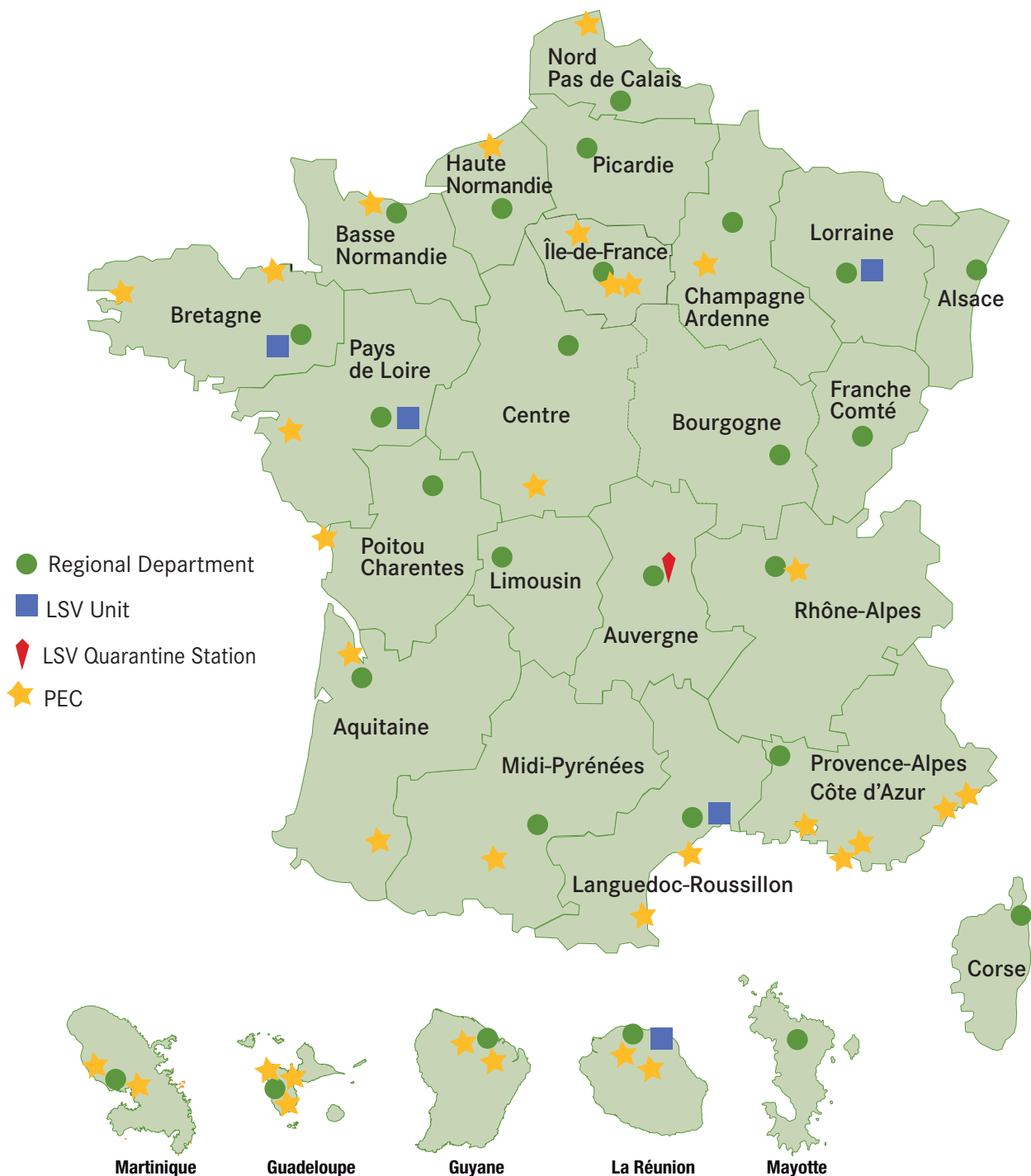
To carry out its missions, DGAL is supported by technical services managed by the Prefects of the different French departments and regions. DGAL has operational authority over these services and regularly sends them instructions.

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

The DRAAFs (in mainland France) and the DAAF (in French overseas territories and départements) are national departments responsible for implementing plant protection policy defined by the DGAL, particularly inspections, monitoring and control. They monitor health organizations (*organismes à vocation sanitaire* or OVS) such as the French Federation of Regions for Pest Control (FREDON) to which they delegate certain inspection tasks.

NPPO AND PLANT HEALTH LABORATORY (LSV) OFFICES IN FRANCE

TERRITORIAL COVERAGE



2.3 The national reference laboratory and risk assessor: the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) and in particular its Plant Health Laboratory (LSV)

ANSES is responsible for assessing plant health risks and analyzing phytosanitary risks in particular, to guide the NPPO's decisions. Within ANSES, the LSV is the national reference laboratory for scientific and technical support. Its activity covers all disciplines relating to plant health (bacteriology, virology, entomology, mycology and nematology). The LSV is composed of 80 people on six sites, including a quarantine station for plant imports to France.

About 12,000 analyses carried out by the LSV (ANSES) + about 70,000 official analyses carried out by authorized laboratories, every year.

2.4 Improved governance

Following the French Sanitary Summit in 2010, a new organization leads to optimising the governance and funding of the animal and plant sanitary policies, particularly concerning plant pest control.

New consultative bodies have been created (the CNOPSAV : French National Council for the Orientation of the Animal and Plant Health Policy and its regional offices), in order to guide monitoring and control policies.

The Board is chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and comprises different stakeholders (professional organizations, administrative bodies, INRA - the French National Institute for Agronomic Research, CIRAD - the French Center for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development, ANSES, universities, etc.).

On a regional level, the state-recognized regional sanitary associations coordinate prevention, monitoring and control.

2.5. Network of plant protection experts

The network of plant protection experts is part of the veterinary and phytosanitary expertise department. Their skills are based on their on-the-ground knowledge and many discussions with technical institutes and researchers. Through their collective expertise, the experts take action to provide upstream support to the DGAL - a risk manager - in its decision-making, particularly in the fields of pesticide use and plant health. The experts thus participate in international support projects of the DGAL (SDQPV and SDASEI). They propose implementation of specific monitoring plans, analyze regulations concerning regulated pests in third countries and accompany European or third countries on audit assignments in France.

3. Focus on our monitoring system for in-depth knowledge of France's phytosanitary status

3.1. Territorial Biological Supervision (SBT): a coherent region-based approach providing reliable on-the-ground data collection, processed by shared robust risk simulation models

Territorial Biological Supervision (SBT) aims to ascertain health and phytosanitary conditions of plants grown in France and to monitor the appearance of unintended environmental effects of agricultural practices. It is carried out by the Territorial Biological Supervision Committee, which has an advisory role concerning the observation protocols and methodologies necessary for implementing territorial biological supervision, as well as the outcomes of this supervision.

French SBT is based on several European directives:

- Directive 2000/29/CE of May 8, 2000, on the import and circulation of plants and plant products in the European Union;
- Directives on plant variety rights and the marketing of reproductive materials ;
- Directive 2009/128/CE of October 21, 2009, on proper use of pesticides.



It includes:

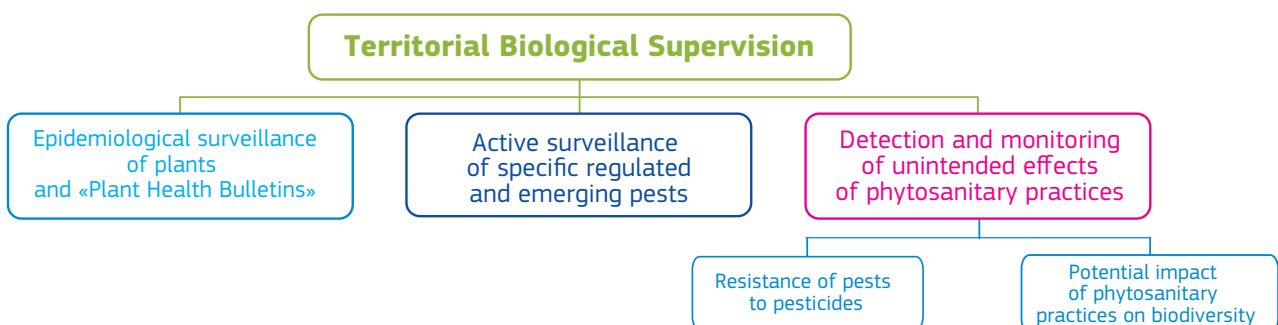
- **Active surveillance of regulated and emerging pests:** regulated and emerging pests are subject to specific monitoring and control plans as they must be detected as early as possible in order to allow quick and effective action.
- **Epidemiological surveillance** = detection of pests to avoid their spread in France, organization of pest control and assessment of phytosanitary conditions of France. SBT concerns various sectors (arable crops, viticulture, vegetables, etc.), with a specific coordinator for each sector.
- **Biovigilance** = detection and monitoring of unintended effects of phytosanitary practices on biodiversity indicator species. Environment-focused observation network.

Territorial Biological Supervision therefore makes it possible to:

- detect pests earlier to quickly limit their impact,
- ensure that products intended for export are free of certain organisms,
- determine the phytosanitary conditions for shaping future technical arrangements.

Furthermore, since 2009, the regional organization of the territorial biological supervision has been restructured under the regulatory framework of the Ecophyto national plan. The aim of the Ecophyto plan includes reducing farms' dependency on phytopharmaceuticals, while maintaining a high level of agricultural production, in terms of quantity and quality. The Ecophyto plan is the French version of Directive 2009/128/CE for sustainable use of pesticides.

DIAGRAM OF TERRITORIAL BIOLOGICAL SUPERVISION



3.2 Focus on epidemiological surveillance

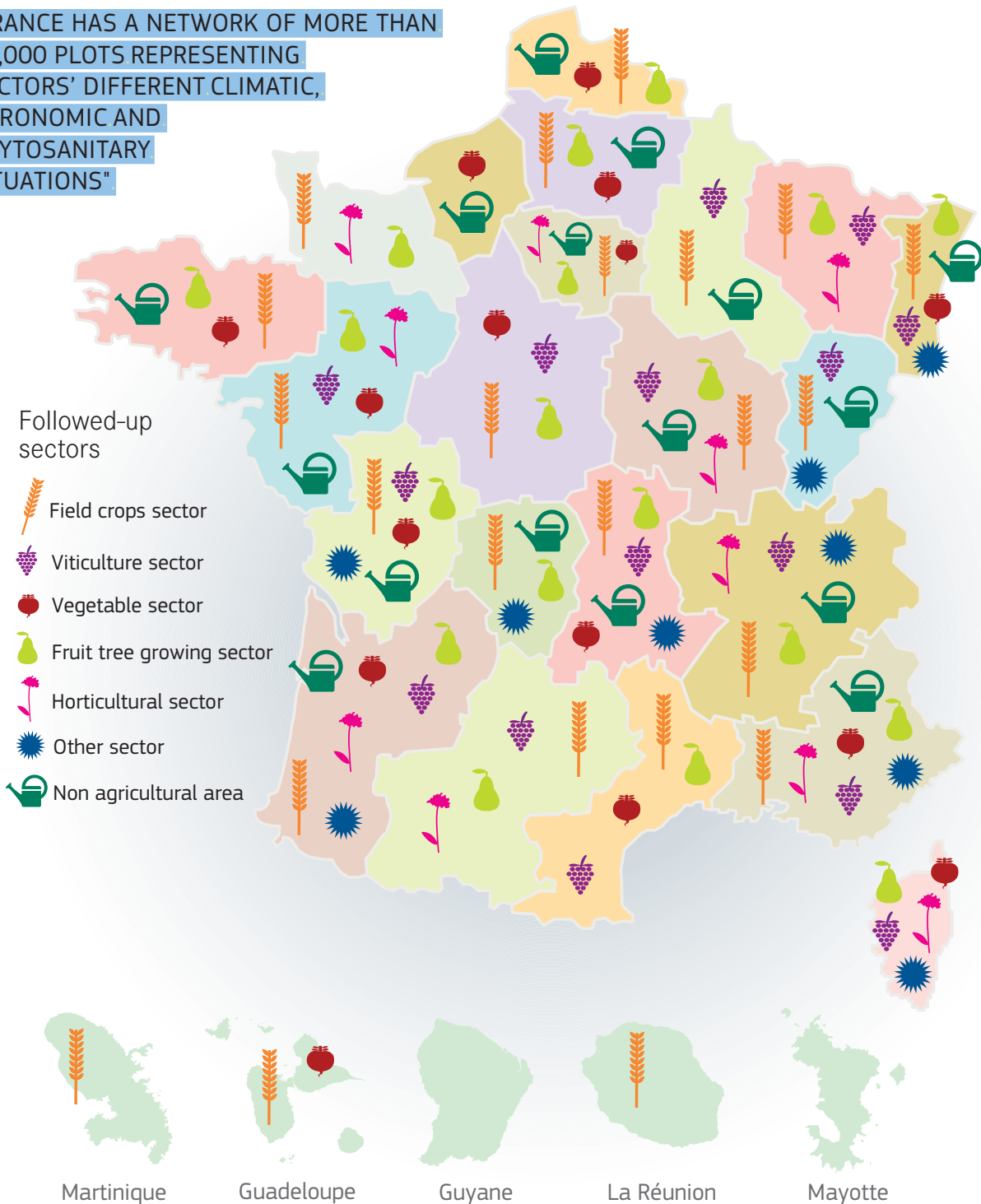
The French network involves the main participants in plant protection: farmers, technical institutes, cooperatives, trade, chambers of agriculture, regional federations of review and defense against pests. Farmers' confidence in these traditional participants makes close collaboration possible and ensures the reliability of transferred data.

France thus implements an observation measure based on an active, diverse and coherent network.

In each of France's 22 regions there is a regional epidemiological surveillance committee ensuring overall coherence of national territorial biological supervision measures, thus making it possible to standardize monitoring protocols and feedback.

« Plant Health Bulletins » published by sectors and regions

"FRANCE HAS A NETWORK OF MORE THAN 15,000 PLOTS REPRESENTING SECTORS' DIFFERENT CLIMATIC, AGRONOMIC AND PHYTOSANITARY SITUATIONS"



France has monitoring protocols and standardized predictive models:

- Field observations

Observers measure the presence of all pests and their phenological stage in relation to their symptoms, presence and the damage they cause.

Observations are scheduled for each plot monitored. The list of pests to locate and report on is set in advance for each crop type. These observations must be carried out in accordance with a nationally predefined and standardized timeline and protocol.

- Biological modeling and meteorological observations

IT models used for assessing the risk of spread are shared among the different parties concerned. When necessary and possible, interpretation of raw data is therefore based on a common tool. For certain pests, simulation models supplement observation to describe epidemic risk. The weather station network provides data for parasite risk simulation models or to guide decision-making. This model makes it possible to forecast the development of certain pests.

- Laboratory analyses

A laboratory network helps to ensure the reliability of biological observations carried out in the field (by testing samples to identify pests). Official analyses are carried out by the ANSES Plant Health Laboratory (LSV) or by state-recognized laboratories.

- Second stage monitoring: state supervision

French authorities (DRAAF) conduct a second stage observation led by network partners. They particularly check that plot meshing meets predefined requirements and that observations carried out comply with the standardized protocols.



3.3. SBT reports: collected data made available in real time

A nationwide database centralizes all information gathered by the epidemiological surveillance network. This data is analyzed in each region and made available for the public within 48 hours through "Plant Health Bulletins" (BSV) available for free on the websites of the Regional Directorates for Agriculture, Agri-food and Forests (DRAAF).

BSVs are drafted by regional sector coordinators and intended for producers, advisors and technicians of each crop. They are approved by a proofreading committee.

These documents are tools for informing decision-making, grouping together all available information and signaling phytosanitary risks. They do not include recommendations.

"More than 3,000 BSVs are published every year in France and more than 75 bulletins are published every week. All of France is covered, including French overseas territories".

Plant Health Bulletins thus provide farmers and agricultural advisors with the data necessary to apply control measures appropriately.

At a national level, this information is collected in a database available to partners and government offices involved in risk management (phytosanitary risks and environmental and health risks relating to the use of these products). Created in 2011, this database, Epiphyt, receives the epidemiological surveillance data relating to plant health conditions. It is a vital tool for DRAAFs, which are in charge of phytosanitary certification for plant and plant product exports to third countries.



Glossary of acronyms

ANSES: Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety)

BSV: Bulletin de Santé du Végétal (Plant Health Bulletin)

CIRAD: (Centre international de la recherche agronomique pour le développement) Center for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development

CNOPSAV: Conseil National d'Orientation de la Politique Sanitaire Animale et Végétale (French National Board for Animal and Plant Health Policy Guidance)

COPHS: Chief Officer of Plant Health Services

CPO: Chief Plant Officer

CTIFL: Centre technique interprofessionnel des fruits et légumes (French Technical Interprofessional Center for Fruits and Vegetables)

DAAF: Direction de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de la forêt (Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Forestry)

DGAL: Direction générale de l'alimentation (French Directorate General for Food)

DRAAF: Direction régionale de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de la forêt (Regional Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Forestry)

EPPO: European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

FREDON: Fédération régionale de défense contre les organismes nuisibles (French Federation of Regions for Defense against Pests)

GNIS: Groupement National Interprofessionnel des Semences et Plans (French National Interprofessional Group of Seeds and Seedlings)

INRA: Institut national de la recherche agronomique (French National Institute for Agronomic Research)

IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention

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

MAAF: Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt (French Ministry of Agriculture, Agro-food and Forestry)

NPPO: National Plant Protection Organization

OVS: organismes à vocation sanitaire (sanitary bodies)

PEC: Point d'entrée communautaire (European entry points)

SBT: Surveillance Biologique du Territoire (Territorial Biological Supervision)

SDASEI: Sous Direction des Affaires Sanitaires Européennes et Internationales (Sub-Directorate for European and International Health Affairs)

SDQPV: Sous Direction de la Qualité et de la Protection des Végétaux (Sub-Directorate for Plant Quality and Protection)

SIVEP: Service d'inspection vétérinaire et phytosanitaire aux frontières (Department of Phytosanitary and Veterinary Border Inspection)

SOC: Service officiel de contrôle et certification (Official Inspection and Certification Service)

SPS: Sanitaire et Phytosanitaire (Sanitary and Phytosanitary)

WTO: World Trade Organization

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www.agriculture.gouv.fr