

GENERAL DIRECTORATE  
FOR FOOD (DGAL)

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ACTIVITY REPORT

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**KEY FACTS**

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DGAL  
**2016**



# DGAL

# KEY FACTS

# 2016

FRENCH GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR FOOD













# MAJOR PROGRAMMES





# THE ÉCOANTIBIO PLAN: COLLECTIVE SUCCESS ON A GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUE

## OBJECTIVES

- To reduce the use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine by 25% over five years between 2012 and 2016
- To focus particularly on critically important antimicrobials
- To conserve the therapeutic arsenal

## WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2016

Sustained action on the plan's five core focuses:

- Promoting good practice and enhancing actors' awareness
- Seeking and developing alternatives
- Controlling commercial practice and prescription
- Monitoring consumption and resistance to antibiotics
- Promoting the same approach in Europe and internationally

Official decree 2013-317 of 16 March 2016 imposes controls on the prescription of critically important antimicrobials.

**The results achieved in the first four years of the plan – a success for all concerned:** €7m between 2012 and 2016

The 20% reduction in livestock exposure over four years (2012-2015) is a success, in line with the target of a 25% reduction over five years. Exposure of livestock to critically important antimicrobials has declined by 22% in the last two years (2014 and 2015).

These good results testify to the efforts of all involved, but especially farmers and veterinarians, along with pharmaceutical firms and the general public.

**Preparation of Ecoantibio 2 for 2017-2021: tighter targeting plus reinforcement**

## ÉCOANTIBIO: LEVERAGING AGROECOLOGICAL FARMING PRACTICES

- Observation and prevention are better than cure
- Animal welfare, biosafety on livestock farms.



# ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Changes in animal production, modifications at regional level and scientific progress explain why the general public wants increasingly to see consideration given to animal welfare. Over and above the scientific and emotional aspects, the issue of animal welfare can also be seen to have a very real ethical dimension.

## ANIMAL WELFARE: A CORE PRIORITY FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The definition of animal welfare as set out in the code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) relates to observance of a number of key principles, better known as the “five freedoms”:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst – thanks to free access to fresh water and a diet capable of sustaining good health and vigour.
2. Freedom from physical and thermal discomfort – thanks to an appropriate environment containing shelter and comfortable rest areas.
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease – thanks to prevention or diagnosis and rapid treatment.
4. Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour – thanks to suitable space and facilities, in addition to contact with animals of the same species.
5. Freedom from fear and distress – thanks to farm conditions and treatment that avoid causing mental suffering.

## WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2016

The building of the “animal welfare” strategy and priority action plan presented by the Minister in an extraordinary meeting of the National Council for Animal and Plant Health Policy (CNOPSAV) on 4 April 2016.

This action plan covers all farm livestock and pets.

It was drafted in conjunction with all stakeholders, livestock farmers, veterinarians and animal protection associations.

## 5 CORE FOCUSES – 20 PRIORITY ACTIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY:

- Sharing knowledge and promoting innovation: creation of a national centre of reference and support for research.
- Putting sector professionals in the front line for the welfare of their livestock.
- Pursuing ongoing change in practices to improve animal welfare.
- Reaffirming the requirement for protection of animals in slaughterhouses.
- Supporting farmers faced with major difficulties and remedying failures in



livestock care.

- Combating the abandonment of pets.
- Informing the public on progress: explaining and promoting the advantages of French production for the consumer in France, in Europe and throughout the world.

## THE “ANIMAL WELFARE” ACTION PLAN: AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE AGROECOLOGY PROJECT.

- Animal welfare helps prevent disease and reduce the use of medicines.
- Animal welfare makes life easier for those working in farming.
- Animal welfare is aimed at making collective preferences a part of national and international markets and is increasingly a key factor for competitiveness.





# ÉCOPHYTO II

## REDUCING THE USE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS IS POSSIBLE



### OBJECTIVES

- To reduce the use of plant protection products by 50% by 2025, with an initial 25% milestone in 2020.



### KEY STATISTICS 2016

**575,000** professionals trained by Certiphyto, including **375,000** farmers / **2,900** “DEPHY” pilot farms as of 1 January 2017, / **18%** less PPP applications on **2,000** “DEPHY” farms in the programme since 2010 / **41** experimental projects conducted on **170** sites / **3,400** plant health bulletins published in 2016 / All agricultural college training farms now in the programme / A decline of **2.7%** in sales of plant protection products between 2014 and 2015.

### WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2016

- Extra resources for Ecophyto II targeted on the regions: +€30m a year
  - \* Launch of the target for “30,000 farms engaged in low-pesticide agroecology”.
  - \* Aid for tangible and intangible investments, personalised support and training.
- Selection of 60 projects in a national call for proposals involving €4m in grants.
- Priority for collective action, mobilisation of all development networks.
- Operational research on innovation in genetics, biocontrol products, agroequipment, pesticide-free green spaces (JEVI), etc.: €2.3m a year.
- Launch of trials of certificates for PPP reductions (CEPP):
  - \* Notification of obligations to obtain CEPPs for December 2021 sent to each of 1,650 distributors.
  - \* Validation of 20 action datasheets with others to come.
  - \* A web application for online declarations complete with telephone helpline.
- A web portal for EcophytoPic integrated crop protection (13,500 visits monthly, up by 126% on 2015) for the integrated protection of crops (advice datasheets and resources on new techniques, etc.): [www.ecophytopic.fr](http://www.ecophytopic.fr)
- Non-agricultural uses: a ban from 1 January 2017 on the use by local government of plant protection products other than biocontrol and methods allowed in organic agriculture; ban extended to private individuals from 1 January 2019.

# THE SEEDS AND PLANTS PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

## SELECTIVE BREEDING, A KEY TOOL FOR ADAPTING AGRICULTURE TO PRESENT-DAY ISSUES

### KEY STATISTICS 2016

Annual sales: **€3.3 BILLION** (2016 season)  
France is the world's **NO. 1** exporter  
Trade surplus: **€900 MILLION**  
**75%** microenterprises and SMEs  
**72** plant breeders and **244** seed producers  
**19,000** propagators



### WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2016

- Publication on 12 December 2016 of a new “Seeds and Plants Plan for Sustainable Agriculture”.
- Backed by an industry founded on excellence, the plan was drafted by the industry’s stakeholders, and in particular by the Standing Technical Committee on Selective Breeding (CTPS), whose roadmap has been made an integral part of the plan.
- Its objective is to make selective breeding of varieties and seed/plant quality central to the agroecology challenge for France. The new plan seeks to respond more effectively to the diverse needs of users of varieties, whether farmers, industrial processors or local craft trades, while at the same time providing a better assessment of the environmental value of varieties (as a component of agronomic, technical and environmental value (VATE)). To achieve this, the technical regulations governing variety registration for examination are regularly updated.

### SIX TECHNICAL REGULATIONS REVISED IN 2016.

The plan has six core focuses :

1. Structuring the conservation of plant genetic resources.
2. Fostering innovation to serve agroecology in the seeds and plants sector.
3. Adjusting the variety registration criteria to enhance diverse agricultural performance.
4. Developing innovative plant variety production and data analysis processes.
5. Consolidating the inspection and certification system for seeds and plants placed on the market.
6. Ensuring that French interests are defended internationally, plus transparent communication on plant selective breeding.



# THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BEEKEEPING

## KEY STATISTICS 2016

OVER **1,300,000** COLONIES IN FRANCE

OVER **52,000** BEEKEEPERS

**The honeybee is one of the main contributors to the pollination of the crops grown in France**

## SANITARY INITIATIVES UNDER THE PLAN: WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2016

- Definition of a national strategy for prevention, surveillance and control of the *Varroa destructor* parasite over the coming years
- Simplification of the online procedure for declaration of bee colonies on the website



<http://mesdemarches.agriculture.gouv.fr/> and raising beekeepers' awareness of this procedure

- Implementation of programmes for prevention, surveillance and control of biological and chemical sanitary hazards for bees
- Support to the French institute of beekeeping for:
  - \* Two trials for the development of effective control methods for the Asian hornet *Vespa velutina nigrithorax* ("Collective trapping

of queens in spring" and "Availability of a protein lure based on an active substance").

- \* Creation of an observatory of honeybee colony mortality and decline (OMAA)
- Consideration for the specific features of beekeeping in connection with the amendment of the official order defining government compensation arrangements for officially ordered slaughter of livestock and destruction of products.
- Clarification of the role and procedures for the exercise of their duties by sanitary personnel in beekeeping: veterinarians and beekeeping sanitary technicians (TSAs).





## PUBLIC POLICY ON FOOD: OUR MODEL HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE

### ONE OBJECTIVE: TO MAKE OUR FOOD MODEL A STRENGTH FOR THE FUTURE

France's National Food Programme is structured around four core focuses:

#### SOCIAL JUSTICE

More than four million people use food banks in France.

#### Ensuring access for all to high-quality food in sufficient quantities:

- The extension in 2016 of the tax rebate scheme to agricultural producers for donations of processed and packaged fruit, vegetables and potatoes along the same lines as the arrangements in place for eggs and milk.
- Publication of the implementing decree for law no. 2016-138 of 11 February 2016 against food waste laying down requirements for the drafting of donation agreements between distributors and non-profit food aid associations with a view to enhancing the quality of such donations.



<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/stephane-le-foll-signe-le-decret-securisant-les-modalites-du-don-de-produits-alimentaires-par-les>

#### Improving the quality of the food offering for all:

- The signing on 6 July 2016 of the collective agreement with Davigel, which commits to continuing to improve the nutritional quality and sustainability of its product manufacturing, processing and distribution methods.



<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/alimentation/accords-collectifs-pour-lamelioration-de-loffre-alimentaire>

#### FOOD EDUCATION FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION

- Continued input of content for the dedicated area of the Ministry of Education's website (<http://educol.education.fr/education-alimentation>) in order to provide teaching teams with materials certified under the National Food Programme.
- **Provision of teaching materials:**
  - \* adaptation of the "taste class" kit for new audiences (training in sensory education for teachers and staff working with disabled children) and France's overseas territories

\* Partnership with publishers Bayard Presse for the creation of a booklet on food (8 pages) and inclusion of a focus on sustainable food in the group's publications during "Green Month".

- Pursuant to regulation (EU) no. 2016/791 of the European Parliament and Council of 11 May 2016, the definition of a new six-year national strategy on the distribution of fruit, vegetables and dairy products in schools (programmes: "Fruit for the playground" and "School Milk").

#### COMBATING FOOD WASTE

- Drafting of the second version of the national agreement against food waste, leading to implementation of overhauled governance and new undertakings by government and its partners, with support from technical working groups.



<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/nouvelle-feuille-de-route-du-pacte-national-de-lutte-contre-le-gaspillage-alimentaire>

- The drafting of a template for donation agreements between distributors and non-profit food aid associations, aimed at establishing donations as one of the responses to the issues surrounding unsold goods suitable for human consumption in the large retail chains.



<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/don-alimentaire-un-modele-de-convention-entre-distributeur-et-associations>

## LOCAL ROOTS

Three billion meals are served every year in 73,000 institutional catering facilities (in companies, crèches and schools, hospitals and social or medico-social centres, among others)

- The continuation in 2016 of the work begun in 2015 during the livestock farming crisis at the request of the Prime Minister and in partnership with the government procurement directorate, aimed at providing a “toolbox” for purchasing managers in public-sector institutional catering. LOCALIM officially went online for the general public on the Ministry of Agriculture’s website in late October 2016.
- On 20 May 2016, the inclusion of regional food projects (PATs) by the interministerial committee for rural affairs as a measure, recommending official recognition of 100 PATs by the close of 2017 and the creation of 500 PATs by 2020.
- The setting up of a consultation group with a diverse membership (government departments, industry groups, networks of non-profit

associations, elected representatives, scientific experts, etc.) tasked with implementing the measure and defining an official scheme for PAT recognition to be launched during the first quarter of 2017.

- The first “fine taste sites” fair on 24/09/2016 and award of new “fine taste site” quality labels: Uzès truffles, Saint-Pol-de-Léon artichokes.

## TRANSVERSE MOBILISATION TOOLS

- The renewal in September 2016 of the National Food Programme’s nationwide call for proposals in conjunction with the French Environment and Energy Management Agency, ADEME.
- Total budget rose from €715,000 in 2015 to €2 million in 2016, including €500,000 from ADEME.
- The call for proposals is steered jointly by the DGAL and ADEME (total budget €2,000,000).



<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/lancement-de-lappel-projets-2016-du-programme-national-pour-lalimentation>

- This further call for proposals gives priority to the four core focuses of public food policy, with particular emphasis on the emergence and implementation of regional food projects (PATs).
- Just under 430 proposals have been submitted to DRAAF and DAAF regional offices.



# OUR AREAS FOR ACTION





# 1

## ANIMAL HEALTH AND PROTECTION

The DGAL is responsible for drafting regulations on animal health and welfare, livestock traceability, prevention of animal diseases, sanitary surveillance of livestock farms and management of disease outbreaks such as bluetongue

and avian influenza in 2015 and 2016. In particular, the Ministry of Agriculture's agroecology project is leading to a sharper focus on animal welfare and reductions in the use of antibiotics on livestock farms.



## AVIAN INFLUENZA: FARMS HARD HIT IN FRANCE'S SOUTHWEST

In late November 2015, outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza were detected on palmiped farms in the southwest of France. By the end of the epizootic over 80 outbreaks had been identified in 10 départements covering the parts of France where this type of farming is most concentrated.

Given what is at stake in both sanitary and economic terms, the DGAL, with the support of professionals from the sectors concerned and decentralised government agencies, adopted a strategy for progressively depopulating farms within a restriction zone covering 17 départements in the southwest of the country. Application of this restriction zone led to the gradual depopulation of the area, allowing birds to go through to the end of their normal commercial life, thus avoiding a mass slaughter programme.

Farmers are in the front line: they are under obligation to declare any suspicion of disease to their veterinarian.

The veterinarian is responsible for diagnosis and confirming, or ruling out, the presence

of the suspected disease. Where applicable, he or she may take samples. The strategy based on a period of total depopulation on sanitary grounds is accompanied by intensified biosafety measures and the subsequent restocking of farms under controlled sanitary conditions, starting on 16 May 2016. The restriction zone was lifted on 15 September 2016 on the basis of favourable results from the reinforced surveillance programme initiated on 16 May.

In December 2016, a further crisis occurred in the southwest, once again due to the avian influenza virus, in a different strain, requiring the mass slaughter of birds. As of February 2017, this crisis was still ongoing.

Although the strains of the virus responsible for these crises cannot be transmitted to human subjects, an eradication programme has been conducted. This was because the strain is capable of mutating and taking on a closely-related form that is more virulent, or adapted to another species, possibly becoming transmissible to mammals and human beings. ●

## BLUETONGUE THE REGULATED AREA IS EXPANDING IN MAINLAND FRANCE – LIMITED INCURSION OF SEROTYPE 4 INTO CORSICA

Between September 2015 and January 2017, approximately 1,900 outbreaks of bluetongue virus serotype 8 were notified in 48 different départements. The regulated zone was progressively expanded by ministerial order, covering 85 départements by the close of 2016. An outbreak of bluetongue serotype 4 was detected in Corsica in November 2016. No other cases have been seen since then, thanks to preventive vaccination.

In order to slow the spread of the disease, movements of domestic ruminants outside the regulated zone are controlled. Given that the virus can be spread by wind or movements of ruminants, reinforced surveillance was imposed in mainland France by the DGAL immediately the first outbreaks appeared in September 2015.

Bluetongue surveillance in France is based on two core principles:

### Scheduled surveillance

A sample of bovine animals was tested across France in October–November 2015 and later during the January–April 2016 winter period in order to study the expansion of the circulation of the virus. A new system of surveillance based on sentinel farms in départements free from outbreaks was put in place



## CERTIFICATION BY AUTHORISED VETERINARIANS

Since 1 January 2016, in line with the provisions of a European directive, the French government has entrusted sanitary certification for trading in cattle within the European Union to private-sector veterinarians receiving official training before being selected and mandated by the Prefects of their home *départements*.

As full contributors to government-sponsored services, all have secure personal access to the TRACES system for tracking livestock movements and products of animal origin from within the European Union and outside. They also have the entirety of the up-to-date information needed for carrying out their duties in conjunction with the departmental directorates responsible for protection of the public (DDecPP) supervising the scheme.

In 2016, over 80% of the 1,470,000 bovine animals traded with the other Member States of the European Union were covered by this new certification procedure, representing more than 42,000 certificates issued by the 304 authorised veterinarians.

Despite a situation complicated by blue-tongue outbreaks in France and considerations linked to the various agreements and protocols negotiated by the DGAL, essentially with Italy, Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg, very few non-conformities were detected on arrival of these animals, which testifies to the high quality of the

system. Indeed, 29,000 out of a total of 34,000 certificates for cattle going to Italy were issued by authorised veterinarians.

In addition to the maintenance of trust with our trading partners in the European Union, this procedure has also been validated by the European Commission following an audit in France in June 2016. ●

## THE PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES: STEPPING UP CONTROLS

**In the wake of the videos posted on line by non-profit animal protection associations denouncing maltreatment in certain slaughterhouses, reinforced checks were carried out by decentralised DGAL departments (DDcsPP).**

In late March 2016, the Minister asked Prefects to arrange for inspections on 30 April 2016 of all establishments slaughtering meat animals, with animal protection as a specific target. The purpose of those inspections was to assess the level to which livestock protection was fully controlled from arrival up to slaughter.

For reasons of official transparency in relation to the general public and consumers, the outcomes of these inspections were made public. All establishments slaughte-



ring meat animals operating in April 2016 were inspected in this way in metropolitan France and French overseas territories, totalling 259 establishments comprising 460 slaughter lines for meat animals (a slaughterhouse may have a number of separate lines).

Almost 70% of inspections concluded that the level of risk control was satisfactory (20%) or acceptable (49%). Risk control was judged inadequate in 31% of inspections.

The DGAL is very attentive to this issue and improvements must continue to be made.

An action plan for animal welfare (cf. “Major Programmes” section) was put in place in 2016 in consultation with sector professionals and animal protection organisations in particular to improve the situation in slaughterhouses:

<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/infographie-plan-daction-gouvernemental-pour-le-bien-etre-animal> ●

# 2

## PLANT HEALTH AND PROTECTION

The DGAL is also about regulating and organising surveillance of plant health across national territory and combating the sanitary hazards that may impact it. In 2016, in addition to the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*, other disease out-

breaks involved government and sector professionals: e.g. the Plum Pox Virus is under control over part of the country but continues to give cause for concern in certain production areas such as the Eastern Pyrenees.



## A NEW EU PLANT PROTECTION REGULATION

**This new regulation on protection measures against plant pests came into force on 13 December 2016. For France, it represents real progress in protecting EU territory against plant pests that can have disastrous consequences for our quality of life and economy, such as *Xylella fastidiosa* and pine wood nematode.**

The regulation adopts a graduated, risk-based preventive approach. Using a preliminary assessment, it will enable the identification and prohibition of imports of plants and plant products presenting a high potential risk insofar as a phytosanitary risk assessment has not demonstrated that the steps taken by the country of origin are such as to allow the prohibition to be lifted.

The requirement for a phytosanitary passport will be extended to include all plants intended for planting other than seeds, and will provide traceability. The phytosanitary certificate requirement will be extended to include all plants. This regulation will also improve the definition of the relative priorities of harmful organisms, thus improving the allocation of Member States's resources.

The regulation will apply fully from 12 December 2019; it will demand enhanced resources, especially for inspections both for imports and checks relating to European phytosanitary passports, for which the scope and requirements have been extended. ●



## XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA: MAJOR CAUSE FOR CONCERN

**In France, this particularly polyphagous bacterium mainly affects ornamental species. New outbreaks appeared in 2016 in southern Italy, Germany and Spain (Balearic Islands). No curative treatment exists for it at the present time. The European decision aimed at preventing its introduction and propagation on EU territory recommends the grubbing up and destruction of infected plants.**

The presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* was observed in France for the first time in July 2015 in Corsica and in October 2015 in the Nice area on ornamental plants. By the end of 2016, a total of 333 outbreaks had been identified across the country, of which 313 were in Corsica and 20 in the Provence-Riviera region (PACA). The bacteria detected in France belong to the multiplex sub-species, with the exception of a single case of the pauca sub-species in Menton in September 2016. The number of outbreaks in Corsica rose in 2016 (by 62% compared with 2015), without however leading to any significant expansion of the areas already identified as infected.

In 2016, the national action plan for control of *Xylella fastidiosa* was stepped up with the main objective of preventing its entry into the country and detecting it as rapidly as possible using intensified import controls, sector surveys and a rein-

forced surveillance plan. The outcome of the action taken in 2016 and the action plan for 2017 can be found on line at [agriculture.gouv.fr/le-point-surles-foyers-de-xylella-fastidiosa-en-france](http://agriculture.gouv.fr/le-point-surles-foyers-de-xylella-fastidiosa-en-france).

The twin issues for 2016 were the preparation of management of additional outbreaks using appropriate regulatory controls and the involvement of stakeholders, along with the eradication of detected outbreaks. The decentralised departments (DRAAF and DDCSPP) and their delegated agencies in PACA and Corsica continued to apply control measures. Departments in the other French regions were also called upon to devote considerable effort to surveillance.

Extension of our knowledge of *Xylella fastidiosa* and its vectors by promoting research is a crucial way forward for effective control adapted to epidemiological circumstances. Initial results were obtained in 2016, in particular by improving detection and identification techniques, risk mapping and the identification of potential vectors in certain outbreaks. ●



<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/le-point-surles-foyers-de-xylella-fastidiosa-en-france>

## CONSERVATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES: A KEY ISSUE FOR THE FUTURE

**The DGAL has set up a consultative body comprising representatives of national actors in the conservation of plant genetic resources (government departments, researchers, conservatories, non-profit associations, growers, etc.). This body met for the first time in September 2016.**

The issue for conservation of plant genetic resources is the need to guarantee the availability of crop biodiversity, the indispensable raw material for the genetic improvement of crop plants. It also plays a key role in adaptation to ecological changes and unforeseeable shifts in requirements.



The body thus set up will provide support to government on all issues relating generally to genetic resource conservation, and specifically :

- Organisation of official recognition for managers of collections of genetic resources.
- Identification of genetic resources in the French National Collection to enable their long-term conservation, characterisation and dissemination.

This consultative body is dependent on the national organisation for the conservation of plant genetic resources, also set up in 2016 in GEVES, the group for study and control of varieties and seeds, with funding from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Its mission is to list, support and guide national actors in plant genetic resource conservation.

It also has a watching brief for the identification of species for which genetic resources may be in danger and the proposal of solutions.

Lastly, this organisation will give international visibility to national initiatives and meet France's international commitments under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. ●

## LAUNCH OF THE TRIAL PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCT SAVINGS CERTIFICATE SCHEME (CEPP)

**Inspired by the energy savings certificate, the CEPP scheme is a new tool for leveraging the Ecophyto II plan to contribute to the overall goal of reducing the use, risks and impacts of plant protection products. It will involve the entire industry, including both product vendors and actors for change, rather than placing the burden of effort on farmers.**

The CEPP scheme, which entered its operational phase in September 2016, began with the first 20 standardised initiatives available for use by distributors in order to

obtain Certificates. Since then, actors in the agricultural world and its individual sectors have submitted numerous datasheets to the independent assessment committee led by the national agronomics institute, INRA. Around a hundred action datasheets are therefore in the process of evaluation and most will be suitable for inclusion in the scheme. A successful launch!

A dedicated website for online declaration of applications for Certificates went online as early as September 2016. A small number of CEPP applications have already been filed by distributors via the website. The

scheme's dedicated helpline team is also heavily involved.

In December 2016, the DGAL sent a letter to each member of the scheme detailing their obligations for the period to 2021: 1,700 distributors were identified as under "obligations" to the scheme.

Total obligations represent 17 million savings certificates to be obtained. Fifty distributors account for 50% of this total. ●



## ORGANISATION OF THE PLANT PHARMACOVIGILANCE SYSTEM

**The roll-out continued in 2016 of the plant pharmacovigilance system required by the law on the future of agriculture, food and forestry of 13 October 2014.**

The purpose of plant pharmacovigilance is to maintain surveillance for any undesirable effects of authorised plant protection products. It covers not only environmental contamination, but also exposure of and impacts on living organisms and ecosystems, in addition to indications of the appearance of resistance. To achieve this, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) collects and analyses a range of data and signals in order to anticipate, detect and take steps to control any undesirable effects.

The official decree of 24 November 2016 contains the terms under which it is to be set up by ANSES, in addition to its functioning. It provides for the following:

mental agencies (DRAAF (or SRAL)) who manage and support them. The centre for the northeast now covers two regions, Grand-Est and Bourgogne (Burgundy) – Franche-Comté, with a new local office in Dijon. The centre for the southeast covers the Occitanie, PACA and Corsica regions. The Nouvelle-Aquitaine centre for Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes covers the region with the same name.

The scope of the centre for the northwest is unchanged and now covers six regions: Centre-Val-de-Loire, Ile-de-

- Networks for systematic collection of information generated by the surveillance and vigilance bodies already in place.
- Production of specific research into the undesirable effects of plant protection products.
- Reception of alerts and one-off notifications of the harmful effects of products from all actors in the production, distribution and use chain of the products.

Funding for the scheme comes from a turnover tax on pharmaceuticals for plant protection.

The processing of the data collected by the plant pharmacovigilance system may lead to adjustment of the conditions for the authorisation or use of products on the market. ●

France (Greater Paris), Hauts-de-France, Normandy, Brittany and Pays de la Loire. They have begun to build relationships with the observer-correspondents for which they are responsible and are exploring their new territorial remit. The two bodies that provide observer-correspondents, the national centre for forest owners (CNPF) and the national forests office (ONF) have carried out similar territorial reorganisations. ●

## FOREST HEALTH: REORGANISATION OF THE SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

**Following the reform of French regional government, the forest health surveillance network has been reorganised to match the areas covered by the new French regions. The reorganisation began in 2016 and has been in place since 1 January 2017.**

Nationwide surveillance of forests relies on forestry workers on the ground, known as “observer-correspondents”. Although there is no change in the scope of the activities of the 220 “observer-correspondents” who care for forests day by day, the coverage has been adjusted of four of the five interregional centres in the depart-

# 3

## SAFE, HIGH-QUALITY FOOD FOR ALL

Driving the National Food Programme (PNA) and guaranteeing the safety of food for consumer health at every stage in the food chain together form the core of the DGAL's mission. In 2016, the system of official controls was consolidated in order to make even more robust the risk analysis on which inspection sche-

dules are based, and enhancing the effectiveness of the monitoring of corrective measures in establishments across France. Work was begun on building a more integrated system of food chain surveillance involving institutional and private-sector stakeholders with a view to better protection for the consumer.

## RINGING LOCAL PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION CLOSER TOGETHER

**Regional food projects (PATs) can bring producers, distributors, local government and consumers closer together for the development of agriculture in the regions and improved food quality.**

Regional food projects (PATs) were taken up on 20 May 2016 by the interministerial committee on rural affairs, recommending official recognition for one PAT per *département* by the end of 2017 and the creation of 500 projects by 2020.

The DGAL has set up and coordinated a consultative group with a diverse membership (government departments, sector groupings, networks of non-profit associations, elected representatives, scientific experts, etc.) tasked with implementing the measure. Based on a survey

involving around a hundred project promoters and consideration of the issues by the consultative group, it has constructed a system for official recognition of PATs to be launched in the first quarter of 2017. The stakeholder networking aspect will also be considered in 2017.

PATs help consolidate regionalised supply chains and the development of consumption of products whose distribution channels are short, organic farming produce in particular. They contribute to the development of agroecology and more generally to sustainable development of France's regions. ◆

## LOCALIM: CHANGING PROCUREMENT IN INSTITUTIONAL CATERING

**During the livestock farming crisis, a “toolbox” for buyers in public-sector institutional catering, LOCALIM, was put online on the Ministry of Agriculture's website in October 2016.**

This toolbox, created at the request of the Prime Minister under the aegis of the Government Procurement Directorate, will provide support to public-sector buyers in institutional catering by facilitating procurement of high-quality, environmentally-friendly products.

The toolbox comprises a series of technical and methodological datasheets setting out the specific features of each production chain and listing contact details and guidelines for establishing supply specifications.

It will be updated on a regular basis. Special training will be provided for public-sector buyers in institutional catering.



[www.localim.fr](http://www.localim.fr) ◆





# BLANCHE NEIGE AURAIT DÛ CROQUER UNE POMME MOCHE

gaspillagealimentaire.fr

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MOINS  
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## COMBATING FOOD WASTE: PROGRESS ON FOOD DONATIONS

**In December 2016, Minister Stéphane Le Foll signed an official decree laying down the terms on which donations of foodstuffs are to be made to charities by retail outlets.**

Specifically, the decree of 28 December 2016 on food donations between retail commerce and non-profit food aid associations lays down an obligation for the sorting of foodstuffs by the retail outlet prior to making the donation. It requires that on the date of transfer donated products should have at least 48 hours to run before their use-by date, unless the beneficiary association can demonstrate its capacity to redistribute the products within the relevant time period. These conditions will encourage development of high-quality donations under conditions of safety for non-profit associations.

The decree came into force in early 2017. A template for agreements meeting the above conditions has been drawn up in consultation with stakeholders and is now available on the Ministry of Agriculture website:



<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/don-alimentaire-un-modele-de-convention-entre-distributeurs-et-associations>

Retail food outlets with floor areas exceeding 400 sq. m. are placed under an obligation to sign agreements as defined in the law of 11 February 2016 against food waste, based on a bill put forward by member of parliament and former delegated minister for agrifood Guillaume Garot.

A new version of the National Pact against Food Waste is to be published early in 2017. 🍷

## EVALUATING THE PRESENCE OF NOROVIRUS IN OYSTERS

**The European Commission has launched a study to evaluate the presence of norovirus in oysters marketed in Europe. Norovirus is responsible for winter epidemics of human gastroenteritis, and is mainly transmitted by contact between people. It can also cause collective food poisoning.**

Norovirus is the leading cause of collective food poisoning in Europe linked to the consumption of shellfish, mainly oysters (generally eaten raw or only lightly cooked).

As the biggest producer of oysters in Europe, France was very closely involved in the European study led by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA). In France, 74 production areas and 167 despatch facilities were randomly selected, generating 43% of all European data for production areas and 85% for production centres.

Sampling by DD(CS)PP and IFREMER inspectors began at the selected locations on 1 November 2016 and will continue over the two-year study period, up to 31 October 2018. The National Reference Laboratory for shellfish microbiology (NRL, IFREMER Nantes) is responsible for centralising the results of qualitative analysis carried out by approved laboratories, assaying samples containing norovirus and entering all traceability and analytical data in the EFSA database.

In 2019, EFSA will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the results provided by the various

Member States. The report, publication of which is expected before the end of 2019, is intended to provide a basis for European discussions directed at identifying a possible criterion for sanitary regulations.

France has made a major financial contribution to this. Over K€570 will be paid by the government, taking account of the reimbursement terms of the European Commission, which is providing €1 million to fund the study ●



## EURO 2016: DEPLOYMENT OF DGAL STAFF

**The Euro 2016 football tournament between 10 June and 10 July attracted 6.4 million spectators, more than 1.5 million of whom were foreign supporters. The staff of the DGAL and the DD(CS)PPs in the *départements* were mobilised to guarantee the safety of the food on sale.**

As part of the interministerial action plan drawn up to ensure the event's success, as early as 1 June a reinforced inspection programme was put in place. This involved 7,300 inspections throughout France over the period to the end of the competition. More than two-thirds of all checks were on restaurants, mobile outlets, food shops and supermarkets.

Given the stakes involved in this event, inspection staff endeavoured to provide proportionate but rapid follow-up to their official observations. Although over 80% of situations were considered acceptable, 15% of the establishments inspected were served with an official notice to remedy and 103 closed down with immediate effect. ●



## SALMONELLA IN THE PIG SECTOR: REINFORCED SURVEILLANCE

**Although cases of human salmonella infection have been declining since the implementation of control programmes in the poultry sector, salmonella is still the leading cause of recorded cases of collective food poisoning of bacterial origin in Europe.**

In 2014 in France 15% of collective food poisoning incidents caused by Salmonella were linked to consumption of meat (pork and poultry in particular) and 11% to consumption of prepared meat products.

The lack of a harmonised control programme in Europe led the European Commission to step up the requirements it imposes on the competent authorities in this domain, beginning in 2015.

Among the various options put forward by the Commission, the General Directorate for Food chose to implement a sys-

tem for the collection and centralisation of the results of salmonella surveillance self-inspections carried out by sector professionals in all pig slaughterhouses. This innovative approach was defined in conjunction with professionals in slaughterhouses and the pig sector. The results are intended to be passed on annually to the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) for analysis. They can also be used at national level to raise operators' awareness of the need to improve their working methods.

In particular, an overview of initial results shows that variability of contamination levels between slaughter facilities can be linked to risk factors that could be examined with a view to managing them more effectively: e.g. livestock waiting times on site prior to slaughter, cleaning/disinfection procedures or slaughter throughput rate. ●

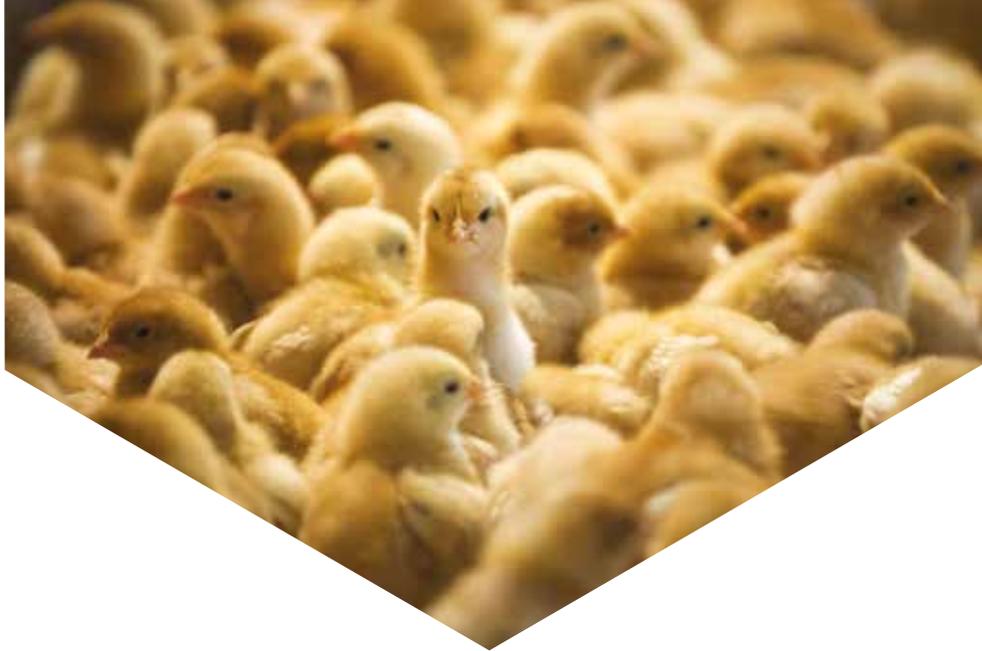
# 4

## COMBATING SANITARY CRIME

The French national unit for veterinary and phytosanitary investigations (BNEVP) is a task force that can be called upon at very short notice by the DGAL. It concentrates its activities on combating organised crime. It is staffed by around fifteen officers and conducts investigations on the ground throughout France. BNEVP officers are vested with judicial and administrative policing powers.

As in previous years, those cases involved a variety of offences such as **trafficking in dogs, horses, veterinary medicines, foodstuffs and plant protection products**. Some offences, such as counterfeit plant protection products or trafficking in live animals, involve the whole EU and therefore require officers to cooperate closely with other Member States.

**In 2016, 43 new cases were investigated by the BNEVP.**



## A HATCHERY PROSECUTED FOR MALTREATMENT

In November 2014, the national unit for veterinary and phytosanitary investigations (BNEVP) took action to support the Finistère DDPP in an enquiry concerning a Brittany hatchery accused by the non-profit association L.214 of maltreatment of chicks.

Following a preliminary enquiry, the public prosecutor decided to start proceedings against the hatchery in Brittany as a legal entity, most notably for maltreatment of animals, an offence under the French code of rural and maritime fisheries law.

The Court handed down its verdict on 8 March 2016, finding the hatchery guilty of inflicting ill-treatment on animals, operating an unauthorised establishment for the production of animal by-products, operating an environmentally classified establishment without a permit, failing to transfer animal by-products for rendering, illicit waste management and unauthorised processing of carcasses and by-products.

Based on this series of offences, the penalty requested by the prosecutor's office was a six-month prison term, suspended, plus a fine of €30,000, €15,000 to be suspended. The hatchery had ceased operating before the verdict. ●

## SALAD PLANTS CONTAMINATED WITH PESTICIDE RESIDUES

In September 2015, the non-profit association "Génération Futures" notified the presence of plant protection product residues in a sample of supermarket salad plants. Some of the active substances detected were banned for use in France on salad plants, in particular DDT, which has been prohibited for many years for use on all crop plants throughout the EU. The BNEVP was given the task of identifying the source of the contamination.

The unit tracked back up the supply chain, identifying at each stage the central buying organisation, the wholesaler or, finally, the producer responsible for placing the relevant batches of plants on the market. Each producer was then subjected to a special inspection by the BNEVP.

The active substances detected on the plants were present at very low levels. No anomalies were observed on the farms themselves.

The most likely reason for the residual presence of DDT in a salad sample is historical soil pollution. This can occur because DDT is a very persistent organic molecule and was frequently used by growers in the past.

Another case involved the use on salad plants of detected molecules (imidacloprid, mandipropamid) not authorised in France. The unit's enquiries demonstrated that **the "incriminated" plants had not been produced in France but in Italy, where treatment with those substances is authorised.**



The presence of residues of oxadiazon, a herbicide banned for use on salad plants, very probably originated in contaminated irrigation water due to frequent use of the active substance on rice crops, of which there are many in surrounding region.

All in all, the unit's enquiries, set out in a report in October 2016, provided some answers to the questions raised by Générations Futures.

**Where marketing authorisations (AMM) for plant protection products are concerned, regulatory integration is still incomplete across the EU** since individual Member States are competent for the issuance of AMMs. ●

## FALSIFICATION OF HORSE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

**Following the detection by veterinary officers of a number of discrepancies in identification documents for horses involving both French animals and others brought into France by European traders, three investigations were launched.**

They were conducted in coordination with the various EU countries involved, and especially in Belgium and Spain. In particular, one operator was trading in horses for recreation and for slaughter, buying horses from traders in various European countries.

The networks taken down are accused of falsifying horse passports, thus enabling the illegal slaughter of horses for consumption. A particular purpose of false documentation of this kind can be to conceal the administration of

medicines to horses prior to slaughter and non-observance of the regulatory waiting time before slaughter, or administration of medicines that entail a definitive ban of consumption.

This meant that meat non-compliant with EU regulations could be introduced into the European food chain. **Surveillance plans and inspection programmes conducted by the DGAL on a random basis in the horse sector did not reveal any discrepancies or hazards for consumers.**

Intervention by the BNEVP led to the break-up of fraudulent systems which were a potential source of consequences for public health. The courts have prosecuted a number of traders involved in this trafficking, along with several veterinarians. ●

# 5

## SANITARY ALERTS AND CRISES

The DGAL sanitary alert unit (MUS) handles over a thousand alerts every year. In 2016, it was heavily involved in the area of animal health with avian influenza and bluetongue. Where plants were concerned, it also handled a *Xylella fastidiosa* alert in Corsica and the Provence-Riviera (PACA) region, along with several others involving detection of pesticide residues in plants.

Food-related alerts and cases of collective food poisoning account for a large part of its activity: e.g. salmonella in raw milk cheese, norovirus in shellfish, listeria in prepared meat products.

The following are a few cases in which the MUS was closely involved, alongside the decentralised services in France's *départements* (DDecPPs).



## PCBS ON A PIG FACTORY FARM

**Sampling as part of the DGAL's Surveillance Plans and Inspection Plans led to the detection of PCB contamination on a pig factory farm.**

The MUS coordinated enquiries in seven *départements* in an effort to identify the source of the contamination. The national reference laboratory (Laberca) contributed its expertise throughout the investigation, conducting a sampling programme. The possibility that the contamination came from raw materials used in animal feed was ruled out: sampling in factories, in suspect trucks and on farms receiving deliveries during the same period were negative or revealed traces of PCBs with profiles different from those detected on the pig farm.

The DDPP involved and Laberca succeeded in identifying the source of the contamination: a coating of paint containing high levels of PCB on a water tank had been flaking on to the floor below. Meticulous washing of the floor had been taking particles into a partially open tank used for initial feed preparation. Over 130 tests were carried out. Some 2,200 pigs were slaughtered and sent for rendering. The farm was able to keep the animals capable of eliminating the contamination (piglets and breeding sows). This example clearly illustrates the difficulties encountered in investigations arising from “environmental” alerts and the advantages of very close collaboration between experts and government departments, along with the sanitary and environmental mutual funds (FMSEs) for the economic aspect. ●

## A SALMONELLA EPIDEMIC

**Between November 2015 and March 2016, an epidemic of salmonellosis due to *Salmonella* Dublin occurred in France following consumption of raw milk cheese. This involved 92 identified patients, 10 of whom died.**

This epidemic involved numerous actors (livestock farmers, cheese producers, sanitary veterinarians, distributors, health departments, laboratories, public-sector agencies, veterinary officers, etc.) in long and complex enquiries. These linked the epidemic to the consumption of raw milk

cheese (Morbier and Mont d'Or) produced in Franche-Comté by a number of companies.

The presence of *S. Dublin* in the milk used to make these cheeses was apparently due to contamination on cattle farms in the region, contamination that rarely leads to clinical signs in livestock. This particularly worrying situation has had major economic consequences for the sector.

A multidisciplinary working group (comprising ACTALIA, ADILVA, ANSES, GDS

France, the Pasteur Institute, SNGTV, SpFrance and URFAC) was set up under the joint leadership of DGAL and CNIEL (national interbranch centre for the dairy economy). This worked on a project for improvement of the assessment and management of salmonella-related risk in the raw milk cheese manufacturing sector. ●



## **XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA: A NATIONAL PLAN FOR EMERGENCY SANITARY INTERVENTION**



**Responding to a request from the European Commission, a national plan for emergency sanitary intervention to control *Xylella fastidiosa* was drawn up by the DGAL.**

The aim of the plan is to prepare French regions for coping with the arrival of this polyphagous bacterium which has caused major damage to olive trees in Italy.

In addition to defining the crisis management process, the plan provides a large number of technical datasheets. The crises in Corsica and the Provence-Riviera (PACA) region were a source of input for this document, based in particular on tools developed at regional level. Regions hitherto free of *Xylella* are asked to adopt this approach with a view to developing their own regional plans for emergency sanitary intervention. ●



## **AN ANTHRAX EPISODE IN MOSELLE**



**In August 2016, cases of anthrax were detected on eight cattle farms in six municipalities in Moselle. In all, 32 head of bovine livestock died out of a total of approximately 215 present in the fields concerned.**

Anthrax is a zoonosis (an animal disease transmissible to human beings) classed as a category 1 sanitary hazard. The main modes of human infection are contact with infected animals and consumption of products from such animals. The staff of the Moselle DDPP were heavily involved in managing these cases in the field, working alongside farmers, sanitary veterinarians and the regional health agency.

The MUS provided its support to the DDPP in deciding upon the management procedures for livestock, foodstuffs and what was to be done with the contaminated fields.

A preventive vaccination campaign was carried out for 5,000 animals in 10 municipalities in the surrounding region. Scientific and technical support was requested from ANSES for an assessment of contamination risk factors and an estimation of the risks of the spread of the disease. This resurgence of anthrax could be put down to specific climatic conditions (an alternation of dry and very wet periods) in combination with the existence of “accursed fields” contaminated by anthrax spores, which can persist in soil for decades.

At national level, Santé Publique France and the MUS worked in partnership to monitor the episode. Around 50 people who had been in contact with infected animals were given antibiotic treatment. ●

# 6

## MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION

The programming and management of human and budgetary resources in the “Food Sanitary Safety and Quality” programme, quality-based management, coordination of inspections and an overhaul of the food data system: these are the assigned tasks of the subdirecto-

rate for the management of transverse resources and actions, which provides the directorate with the means for good governance and modern, effective tools for its operations.



## RESYTAL: ANOTHER STEP FORWARD FOR THE DGAL DATA SYSTEM

**The overhaul programme for the food data system, RESYTAL, set up in 2015 in the area of plant protection, continued in 2016 with the commissioning of the software programs for user management, scheduling and managing food safety inspections of facilities, along with the software for management of inspection follow-up procedures.**

2016 was also a year for preparation of the roll-out of the animal health and protection software.

The first half of 2016 was marked by deployment in the DD(CS)PP of the user reference criteria and the inspection scheduling and management programs, use of which had previously been restricted to DRAAF staff.

In February 2016, the “Inspection follow-up and isolation management” program also came on stream.

Other major projects were finalised in 2016:

- The data system for inputs (crops).
- Two major versions of the operational assignment management software.
- The “biovigilance” program for plant epidemiological surveillance.
- The “inspection transparency” module due to go online for the general public in 2017.
- Implementation of the reform of the territorial regions in all food data system software.

Following training for DRAAF staff in 2015, correspondents in the regions and in-house trainers led nearly 300 sessions in 2016 to train decentralised service staff in the *départements*. ●

## A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2017-2019

**The DGAL has designed a new multi-year strategic plan that takes account of the outcomes of the previous plan, changes occurring since 2013 and feedback from the sanitary crises deeply impacting its operations in 2016.**

Consideration of this centred on three core focuses: anticipation of changes, design and implementation of tomorrow's policies on food and sanitary safety with a 2025 horizon; consolidation and adaptation of a system for prevention, surveillance and risk control in the

animal and plant sectors; adaptation of organisation and working methods for a stronger professional community driving collective, seamless and proactive action.

Meetings of the working groups produced an analysis of DGAL core tasks and the French sanitary safety system for the long term. They led to the drafting of over 30 action datasheets to be used as a roadmap for the next three years. These strategic priorities will go hand in hand with performance indicators. 

## QUALITY-BASED MANAGEMENT

**The DGAL continues to pursue its goal of making quality a tool for managers to enable continuous functional improvement in their organisations.**

A new process map was published at the end of 2016, taking into account recent changes in approach, and specifically the inclusion of communication in the "Management" process. New simplified process datasheets have been published. These

have been refocused on a logic diagram setting out the various stages in each process, designating the relevant actors, actions and tools.

Internal audits focused on continuous improvement driven by the process-based approach are conducted specifically to guarantee control of the risks intrinsic to our activities, detect possible non-compliance and share good practice. 



# 7

## INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND CONTACTS

The DGAL takes part in the work and negotiations of European and international bodies in the sanitary and phytosanitary spheres. Notably in 2016, it followed the debate surrounding resistance to antibiotics. In order to open up new markets, it

has welcomed numerous delegations from other countries wishing to inspect our establishments or audit our sanitary and phytosanitary system. It has continued to fulfil its core task of ensuring the safety of imports.







## EU REGULATIONS: DGAL PARTICIPATION IN THREE MAJOR NEGOTIATIONS

**A new animal health regulation was adopted in March 2016. This brings all the complex existing rules (approximately 50 directives and regulations) together in a single legislative instrument. Two other regulations, one on official inspections and the other on plant health, have also been adopted.**

The volume of trade in animals and animal products has expanded substantially both within the European Union and with non-member states in recent years. This new animal health regulation will improve efforts to prevent animal diseases, control those diseases and reduce safety-related risks, adopting a coordinated approach.

In June 2016, a political agreement was reached on the new official controls

regulation. It is expected to have come into force by 2020. The new rules are aimed at improving the checks carried out by Member States to ensure adherence to EU legislation on the safety of food and feed, geographical indications, organic farming and animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products.

The new plant health regulation which came into force in December 2016 represents a complete overhaul of the European phytosanitary legislation in place since 1977. It lays down the ground rules for keeping harmful organisms out of Europe and for bringing epidemics under control as rapidly as possible, or limiting them. It will be fully enforceable from 13 December 2019. ●

NUMBER OF FOREIGN  
DELEGATIONS HOSTED FOR  
AUDITS OR INSPECTIONS  
= 24 DELEGATIONS FROM  
14 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

NUMBER OF BILATERAL  
ANIMAL AND PLANT  
MEETINGS = 60

PARTICIPATION IN 4 JOINT  
AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEES:  
INDIA, TAIWAN, CHINA, RUSSIA

35 ANIMAL  
OR PLANT MARKETS  
OPENED UP.



## THE CONSEQUENCES OF SANITARY CRISES FOR EXPORTS

In 2016, the DGAL was affected by four sanitary crises with more or less major repercussions for exports from the sectors concerned.

- Detection of *Xylella fastidiosa*, the Italian olive tree “killer”, on the myrtle-leaf milkwort in Corsica and southeastern France.
- Confirmation of an isolated case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) detected in March 2016 in the Ardennes *département*.
- An episode of bluetongue with detection of the first outbreak in September 2015 in central France, impacting the cattle and sheep sectors.
- The epidemic of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in southwestern France, affecting the poultry sector.

As was the case in 2015, the DGAL and the economics sections in our embassies endeavoured to lift inappropriate restrictions on trade, given that for bluetongue or HPAI some countries will accept animals and products only from countries totally free from the disease.

With the help of the European Commission, the DGAL negotiated acceptance of the regionalisation principle whereby exports can be barred not from the whole of France but only from regulated areas. France’s proactive stance has been and will continue to be a condition for maintenance of the trust necessary to trade relations.

Where HPAI is concerned, the national “exports” crisis management unit set up by the DGAL at the end of 2015 continued to meet throughout 2016, working with sector professionals to define the priorities for action with regard to France’s client third countries. ●

## LIFTING EMBARGOES AND OPENING UP MARKETS

The DGAL negotiates bilaterally with the authorities of third countries on sanitary and phytosanitary conditions governing exports of French agrifood products. In particular, it seeks to lift embargoes imposed in the wake of sanitary crises and to open up new markets.

In many cases, a successful conclusion to negotiations depends on hosting a delegation from the third country wishing to audit the French sanitary and phytosanitary system or inspect exporting establishments. Certain countries will then open up their markets to French products that comply with the negotiated sanitary and phytosanitary terms.

In some cases, opening up a market is more complicated and requires third-country approval of the exporting establishments.

In 2016, the DGAL negotiated the opening of over thirty markets, including Vietnam for kiwi fruit, Guatemala for seed potatoes, Canada and Thailand for beef, Egypt for cattle for slaughter, Brazil for dairy products and Taiwan for pet food. ●





## ANIMAL HEALTH AND PROTECTION INSPECTIONS

Animal protection	Number of inspections	Follow-up procedures
<b>TOTAL, including:</b>	<b>16,050</b>	775 official notices to remedy
Farm livestock	9,600	
Animal transportation	2,400	
Pets	1,650	
Equine animals	900	
Animal laboratory trials	320	
Slaughterhouses	1 180	

Public health in livestock farming	Number of inspections	Follow-up procedures
<b>TOTAL, including:</b>	<b>17,060</b>	293 official notices to remedy
Sanitary inspections on livestock farms	3,800	
Salmonella	8,000	
Identification	2,600	
Veterinary pharmacy	1,400	
Animal by-products	380	
Animal feed	350	
Reproduction	200	
Trade in live animals	350	

## PLANT QUALITY, HEALTH AND PROTECTION INSPECTIONS

	Number of inspections	Follow-up procedures	Comprising:	
			Official action	Penalty notices
<b>TOTAL, including:</b>	<b>13,250</b>	3,550	3,500	50
Inspections of users of plant protection products	6,450	1,900		
Inspections at plant protection product distribution stage	650	250		
Inspections verifying observance of hygiene rules	1,650	150		
Checks on issuance of European phytosanitary passport	4,500	1,250		

## FOOD SAFETY INSPECTIONS

	Number of inspections	Follow-up procedures	Comprising:				
			Official warnings	Official notices to remedy	Withdrawal or suspension of permits	Total or partial closure	Penalty notices
<b>TOTAL, including:</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>21,300</b>	15,000	5,000	50	500	750
Slaughter*, processing or warehousing facilities	19,000	5,700					
Institutional catering	12,000	4,000					
Commercial catering	14,000	7,600					
Shops	10,000	4,000					

\* \* This figure includes only annual inspections of slaughter facilities where official staff also provide a permanent inspection service.

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