

FRENCH GENERAL
DIRECTORATE
FOR FOOD (DGAL)

ACTIVITY
REPORT

KEY FACTS 2017



MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DE
L'ALIMENTATION

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EDITORIAL



New and ambitious projects were highlights in 2017, foremost among them the organisation over the second half-year of the French National Food Conference (*États généraux de l'alimentation* - EGA), which represented a commitment given by the President of the French Republic in his election campaign. The "Public Action 2022" programme is also a key project in its direct relation to the organisation of government departments.

Over the past year it has been necessary once again to continue our policy for the management of animal health crises (avian influenza, bluetongue) as well as reflecting on a plan of action that will allow us to anticipate better and to organise more effectively for these recurrent events. Two sanitary crises concerning foodstuffs, one relating to fraudulent use of fipronil on poultry farms and the contamination by salmonella of infant milk produced by a company of international standing also marked the year and "imposed" themselves as topics in the collective reflections of the National Food

Conference in an effort to learn lessons for the future.

The French National Food Conference made very substantial calls on DGAL staff, who participated actively in the working groups on subjects of keen interest to the Ministry. We shall now proceed to tackle the roll-out of the Conference action plan. The first stage will be to help draft the texts for proposed legislation flowing from the proceedings, a document that addresses proper balance in business relationships and healthy, sustainable food (e.g. food waste, institutional catering, staff policing powers).

The Directorate will of course be contributing to the Ministry's post-Conference roadmap with an adjustment of its 2017-2019 Strategic Plan, as well as to the action plan for an agriculture less dependent on pesticides.

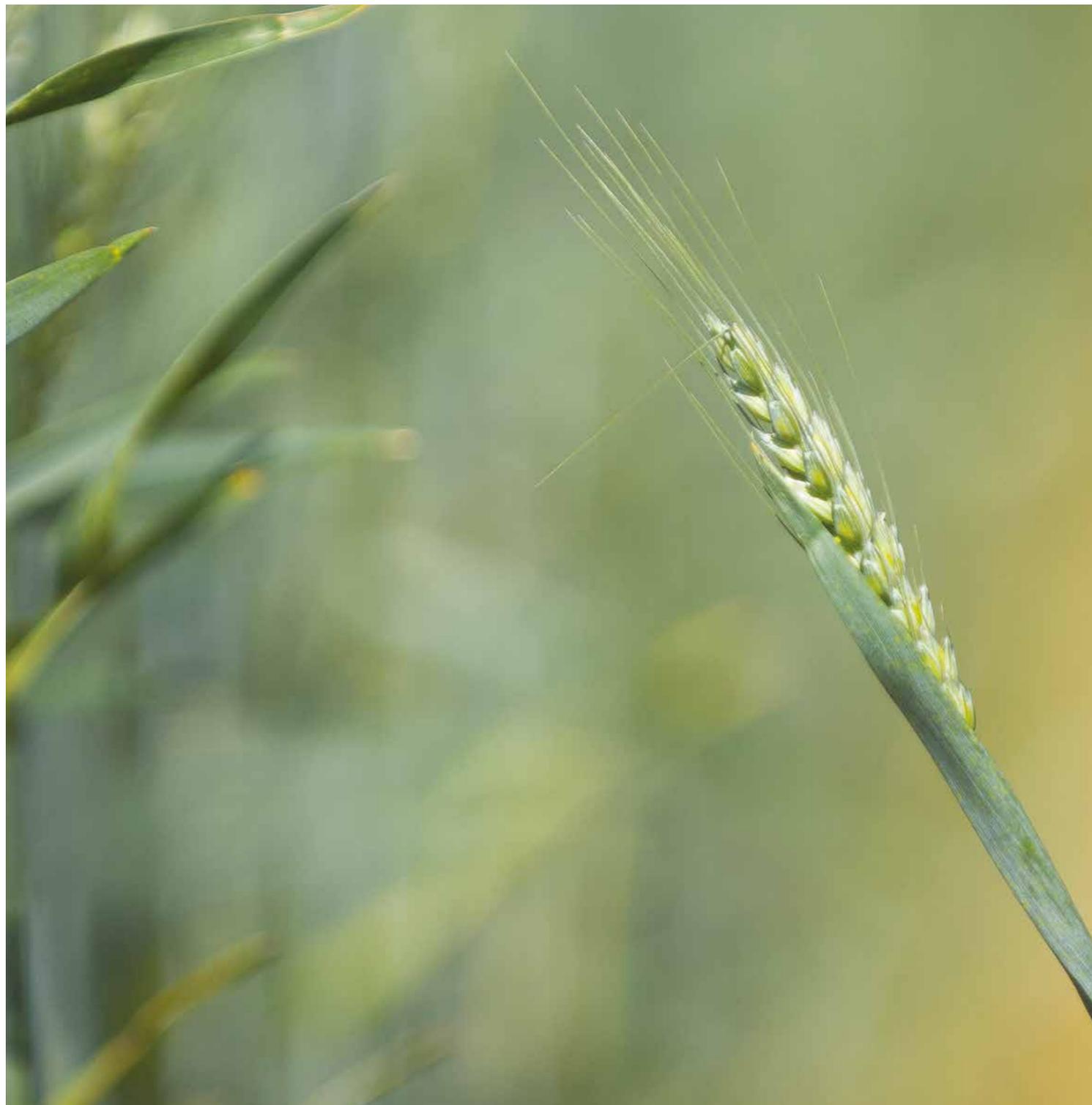
Another dossier of key importance, "**Public Action 2022**", launched by the Prime Minister in October 2017 with several areas of work on its agenda: improvements in quality of service, modernisation of the working environment and control of public expenditure. Among the points for vigilance, ensuring secure sanitary controls is a priority that has been reaffirmed on several occasions by minister Stéphane Travert; this entails maintenance of the headcount over the short term and an increase in the medium and long terms, as well as an expanded budget. The various recent crises underscore the need for this.

Among the priority issues for 2018, we can point to the reinforcement of surveillance, expertise and risk management (diseases and sanitary hazards). This will notably involve the creation of platforms for the epidemiological surveillance of plant health and the food supply chain. The existing animal health platform will be strengthened.

Other areas of importance are also on the agenda for 2018: reinforcement of the activities of staff in the field with better-trained personnel and satisfactory coverage of the country, further modernisation of the Directorate's operations, improvement in the management of incentive policies, enhancement of our international influence, and more.

We need, finally, to bear in mind that February 2017 marked the DGAL's 30th birthday as an entity within the French Ministry of Agriculture. The new organisation was already testimony to the specific character and importance of sanitary issues in agricultural and food-related affairs. Over 30 years, the Directorate has proved itself capable of modernising and adapting to consolidate its position on topics related to sanitary safety, thus responding more effectively to the expectations of society and consumers. It is in 2018 that we shall have the opportunity of celebrating collectively the last 30 years of continuous improvement. ■

Patrick DEHAUMONT
Director General for Food



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MAIN AREAS FOR ACTION



THE FRENCH NATIONAL FOOD CONFERENCE: BUILDING A ROADMAP TOGETHER

The French National Food Conference was launched on 20 July 2017 and concluded on 21 December in Paris. Over a period of five months, the proceedings offered an opportunity for shared reflection and the collective definition of novel solutions. A government roadmap was defined for 2018-2022.

Featuring speeches by the French Prime Minister, Edouard Philippe, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Stéphane Travert, and the Minister of Solidarity and Health, Agnès Buzyn, the conclusion to the Conference provided an opportu-

nity to present the results of the public consultation process, regional workshops, workshop report-backs, sector plans and recommendations adopted by government.

The DGAL was closely involved in organising the Conference, especially the second “work area”, dedicated to healthy, safe and sustainable food, as well as, most notably, the achievement of the following objectives:

- **“a successful ecological transition for French agriculture”**, notably by separating pesticide sales from pesticide advisory services and adjustments to the

Ecophyto programme;

- **“implementation of effective surveillance for sanitary risk identification and assessment”**, notably by reinforcing the epidemiological surveillance platforms (plant health, animal health and food sanitary safety);
- **“satisfaction of societal expectations on animal welfare”**, notably by reinforcing criminal law penalties for the maltreatment of animals and extension of this criminal offence to include establishments responsible for livestock slaughter and transportation;
- **“implementation of a plan for institutional catering with a**

greater role for food in local policies”, notably by setting a target for institutional catering supplies by 2022 of 50% products covered by organic, quality signs or from local sources, of which 20% should come from organic farming;

- **“encouragement of local initiatives”**, with a reaffirmation of the target of 500 local regional food projects (PATs) by 2020;
- **“prevention of food waste and encouragement of charitable donations”**, extending the obligation to combat waste and donate food to charity to include institutional catering organisations.

In addition, in order to “decompartmentalise food policy governance”, national-level programming tools will be more effectively interfaced (PNA*/PNNS**/PNSE***) by mid-2018 and the National Food Council is expected to evolve to become a genuine food “parliament”.

Finally, reinforcement of the means and powers for control in the sanitary domain has been clearly designated as a priority.

What starts now is a new active phase focused on implementation of the recommendations of the National Food Conference.

A bill to legislate for a proper balance in business relationships in the agricultural and food sector and healthy, sustainable food was presented by minister Stéphane

THE NATIONAL FOOD COUNCIL, A GENUINE “FOOD PARLIAMENT”



The French National Food Council

underwent a renewal in January 2017 when it opened up its membership to new members from civil society (representatives from food aid and environmental protection organisations, among others). It adopted a roadmap for its 2016-2019 term of office under the chairmanship of Guillaume Garot.

In 2017:

- **Adoption of opinions** on the BSE crisis, school catering services and hospital meals.
- **Three new consultation**

groups began work on online food sales and consumer information, food protective of health and the national slaughterhouse ethics committee.

- The National Food Conference consolidated the position of the National Food Council as a consultative body useful in building enlightened public policy on food and aligned with major societal expectations.

The organisation of the public debate on food will be among the main areas of work over the coming months.



For more information: <http://www.cna-alimentation.fr/>

Travert to the Council of Ministers on 31 January 2018. ■



All the speeches and announcements of measures can be found on the Alim'Agri website: : <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/les-etats-generaux-de-l'alimentation>

* National Food Programme

** National Nutrition & Health Programme

*** National Health & Environment Plan

PUBLIC POLICY ON FOOD: OUR MODEL FOR THE FUTURE

One goal: to make our food model a strength for our future. The French National Food Programme is built around four main pillars:

SOCIAL JUSTICE

It aims to guarantee access for all to high-quality, safe food in sufficient quantities, along with integration or reintegration into the world of work through jobs in the food and farming sectors.

■ The signing on 29 March of the National Charter for Responsible and Sustainable Food in medicosocial establishments:

Signatories undertake to offer to the elderly and handicapped in their establishments food that is suitable and healthy as part of an approach based on societal responsibility and sustainable development.

The charter is fully aligned with the National Food Programme (PNA) and the National Nutrition & Health Programme (PNNS).

 <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/signature-de-la-charte-nationale-pour-une-alimentation-responsable-et-durable-dans-les>

■ The signing on 31 October of the official order recommending the use of the “Nutri-Score” nutritional labelling scheme for foodstuffs.

Nutri-Score is the scheme the government has decided to implement following discussions with stakeholders and experimentation on the ground. It consists of a graphic presentation using aggregated data to classify food products in five categories with a view to guiding consumer choice toward food of higher nutritional quality.

 <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/etiquetage-nutritionnel-signature-de-larrete-recommandant-lutilisation-de-nutri-score>

FOOD EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

This must involve promotion of food sector jobs, products and regions, as well as, more generally, the transmission of expertise and knowledge on a balanced diet and sustainable food.

■ “Fruit & vegetables at school” / “Milk and dairy products at school”: an overhaul of EU programmes for the distribution of fruit & vegetables and dairy products in schools.

The new national strategy has been defined pursuant to regulation (EU) 2016/791 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016.

The scheme became operational at the beginning of the new school year in 2017.

 <https://info.agriculture.gouv.fr/gedei/site/bo-agri/instruction-2017-1001>

COMBATING FOOD WASTE

This is based on the dissemination of good practice, youth education and development of charitable donation of products currently destroyed or thrown away.

■ The signing on 24 April of the second version of the National Pact Against Food Waste (2017-2020), following on directly from the actions implemented under the first Pact.

More than 50 partners committed alongside the five signing ministries to achieving the target of halving food waste by 2025.

 <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/signature-du-2e-pacte-national-de-lutte-contre-le-gaspillage-alimentaire-pour-une-reduction-de-50>

 <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/pacte-national-de-lutte-contre-le-gaspillage-alimentaire-les-partenaires-sengagent>

REGIONAL EMBEDMENT

The purpose is to restore the bond between agriculture and society, notably by encouraging supplies of high-quality products from local sources.

■ Implementation of Ministry of Agriculture recognition for local regional food projects.

This scheme will allow project promoters to use the product statement “REGIONAL FOOD PROJECT with Ministry of Agriculture official recognition” plus the associated logo.

It raises the public profile of mature projects and fosters the emergence of new projects.

 <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/comment-construire-son-projet-alimentaire-territorial>

 <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/faire-reconnaitre-un-projet-alimentaire-territorial>

CALLS FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS TO INVOLVE STAKEHOLDERS

■ Prizes awarded under the 2016-2017 national calls for projects for the PNA on 1 March.

On the occasion of the Paris International Agricultural Show, the Minister of Agriculture awarded prizes to 47 winners from 11 major regions in metropolitan France and 4 overseas territories.

The call for project proposals has been allocated total funding of €2m, of which €500,000 was contributed by ADEME, the French energy and environmental agency.

 <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/pna-les-47-laureats-de-lappel-projet-2016-2017>

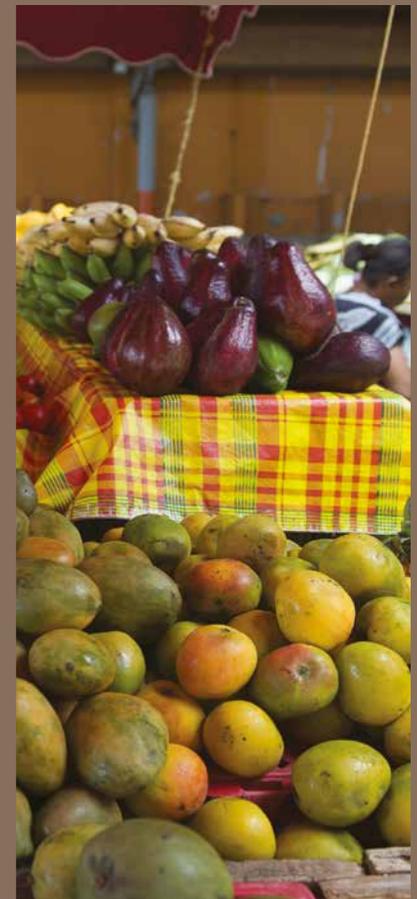
■ Launch of the 2017-2018 PNA national call for projects.

The PNA national call for project proposals has been renewed in partnership with ADEME and, for the first time, the General Directorate for Social Cohesion (Ministry of Solidarity and Health). It has funding of €1.5m, including €100,000 from the Ministry of Solidarity and Health and €400,000 from ADEME.

Over 300 entries were received.

A particular focus is the development of local regional food projects (PATs). ■

 <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/lancement-de-lappel-projets-2017-du-programme-national-pour-lalimentation>



ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY CENTRAL TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Changes in animal production, regional transformations and scientific progress explain why the general public wants increasingly to see more 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.

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2017

Roll-out of the “animal welfare” strategy and the priority action plan presented by the Minister to an extraordinary meeting of CNOPSAV (National Council for Animal and Plant Health Policy) on 4 April 2016:

- creation of the national Centre of reference;
- encouraging results for controls on pet sales;
- promotion of innovation (in-egg embryo sexing project);
- launch of the creation of operational units in French *départements*, specifically as part of the effort to prevent maltreatment of animals.

This action plan covers all farm livestock and pets. It will be a contribution to the “European platform on animal welfare” set up by the European Commission on 24 January 2017.

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

5 CORE FOCUSES – 20 PRIORITY INITIATIVES, 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 experiencing high levels of difficulty and remedying failures in livestock care.
- Combating the abandonment of pets.
- Informing the public on the progress made: explaining and promoting the advantages of French production for the consumer in France, in Europe and around the world.

“ANIMAL WELFARE”: AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE AGROECOLOGY PROJECT

- Animal welfare helps prevent disease and reduce the use of medicines.
- Animal welfare should be an integral part of social preferences in national and international markets and is increasingly a key factor in competitiveness.■



AGRO-ÉCOLOGIE
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THE SEEDS AND PLANTS PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The issues are important: **guaranteeing the availability of plant breeding resources in order to preserve crop biodiversity, helping adapt agriculture to climate change and promoting varieties that offer high environmental performance.**



SIX CORE FOCUSES:

1. Organising the conservation of plant genetic resources.
2. Fostering innovation to serve agroecology in the seeds and plants sector.
3. Adjusting variety registration criteria to enhance diverse agricultural performance.
4. Developing innovative plant variety production and data analysis processes.
5. Consolidating the control and certification system for seeds and plants placed on the market.

6. Ensuring that French interests are promoted internationally, plus transparent communication on plant selective breeding.

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2017:

- Initial work by a national coordination body for action on plant genetic resources formed in 2016 within GEVES, the group for the study and control of varieties and seeds, with funding from the Ministry of Agriculture. This work was devoted to surveying and meeting with the various stakeholders, to communication and to an assessment of the current situation with regard to so-called “neglected” collections.
- A unit dedicated to plant genetic resources has been set up as part of the Standing Technical Committee on Selective Breeding (CTPS). This unit met three times in 2017.

It prepared and validated proposals for official recognition criteria for managers of collections of plant genetic resources. The work done on the contribution of such resources to the French national collection is currently ongoing and is likely to be completed in 2018.

AGRO-ÉCOLOGIE
PRODUISONS
AUTREMENT

Launch of a call for proposals for measures to support actors in September 2017 made by GEVES, with three objectives:

- Preservation of collections under threat.
- Acquisition of equipment to improve collection conservation.
- Improvements in knowledge of collections.
- Raising of the funding from the Ministry of Agriculture from €120,000 to €300,000. Eight projects were selected out of the 24 entered.

Internationally, the DGAL seeks to ensure **satisfactory adherence to France’s international commitments** such as the Nagoya protocol or the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Contribution by France in 2017 of 80 varieties of aubergine, 603 varieties of oats and 36 varieties of triticale, under INRA (National Institute for Agricultural Research) management, to the common pool for which provision is made in ITPGRFA, a pool that can be accessed by all users involved in research or selective breeding. ■

ECOPHYTO II: REDUCING THE USE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS IS POSSIBLE!

The objective is to reduce the use of plant protection products (PPP) by 50% by 2025, with an interim 25% milestone in 2020. In the field, DEPHY farms, now numbering 3,000, have demonstrated that it is possible to make significant reductions in the use of plant protection products without affecting a holding's economic performance.

KEY STATISTICS

As of 1/01/2018:
3,053 farmers engaged voluntarily in the DEPHY programme, of which 660 are farming organically.

As of 1/10/2017: 603,316 "Certiphyto" certificates have been issued since 1 January 2010, 521,347 of these to farmers and farm workers.

3,365 Plant Health Bulletins each year (2013-2017 average).

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2017

Nationally

- 50 projects were selected for funding of €5 million, not including research projects, aimed at: developing and disseminating alternative solutions for PPP use, such as agricultural equipment and biocontrol products, assistance with reducing farm use in agriculture and gardens, planted spaces and infrastructures (e.g. communi-

cation campaigns and support schemes), gaining additional knowledge on how to measure product impacts.

- €5.3 million for 22 research projects following two calls for proposals launched by the ANR (French National Research Agency) and a call specific to the Ecophyto Plan for alternatives to the use of neonicotinoids.
- A trial programme for the plant protection product savings certificate scheme (CEPP) is now operational (see key facts page 28).
- The scheme is ramping up: 87 participants with "obligations" have already notified measures and approximately 230,000 CEPPs have been issued for 2016.

Regionally

- Mobilisation of resources in the regions with annual funding of €30 million.
- Finalisation of the regional roadmaps defining priority measures to reduce PPP use.
- Roll-out of the "30,000 farms engaged in agroecology with low levels of PPP use" network: a total of approximately 250 groups



- with a membership numbering in the thousands of farmers.
- Aid for investment in tangible and intangible assets, personalised assistance and training. ■



THE ECOANTIBIO² PLAN, A COLLECTIVE SUCCESS ON AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

- The first Ecoantibio plan for antimicrobial risk reduction in animal health has been a success: animals' exposure to risk of antibiotic resistance fell by 37% over the period 2012-2016 against an initial target of -25%, which means that the numerical targets of Ecoantibio1 were substantially outperformed.
- This success is the outcome of the efforts and commitment of private- and public-sector stakeholders, especially the farmer/veterinarian tandem.

In order to ensure that these first very satisfactory results can be maintained over time, a second Ecoantibio plan was launched in April 2017 for a duration of five years (2017-2021).

THE ECOANTIBIO² PLAN

- 20 initiatives (tighter focus than the first plan, which had 40),
- More incentivising actions and fewer legislative/regulatory actions.

Main goals

- To develop measures to prevent infectious diseases and facilitate the use of alternative forms of treatment.
- To communicate and provide training on the issues surrounding the combat against anti-

microbial resistance, controlled prescription of antibiotics and other ways of combating infectious diseases.

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2017

- Design and roll-out of the national communication campaign directed at cattle, sheep, goat, pig and poultry farmers, with the key message: "Antibiotics: the right way at the right time".
- Broad-based communication in France, in the regions and internationally on Ecoantibio's initial good results.
- An agreement among G7 CVOs on a definition of the uses of antibiotics (Rome, October).
- An interministerial conference organised in November 2017 with the ministries responsible for health and ecological and inclusive transition: "What is the best way of communicating on antimicrobial resistance?",
- Ecoantibio conferences organised in the regions by the regional directorates (DRAAFs): Loire Valley, Normandy and Burgundy-Franche-Comté,
- Funding for research projects, studies and training materials: 80 project proposals received, 32 selected for funding in 2017 at a cost of €2.8m. ■

AGRO-ÉCOLOGIE
PRODUISONS
AUTREMENT

ÉCOANTIBIO
RÉDUIRE L'UTILISATION DES
ANTIBIOTIQUES VÉTÉRINAIRES



AVIAN INFLUENZA – GOING ON THE OFFENSIVE WITH A PLAN AGAINST VIRUS PROPAGATION

For the second year running, the fattened duck and geese sector found itself in the middle of a new, large-scale sanitary crisis involving a new strain of avian influenza virus, mainly in southwestern France. The first case (H5N8) was identified in France on 26 November 2016, following the detection of numerous cases of the same virus elsewhere in Europe.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN 2017

Adjusted in accordance with:

- the stage at which the outbreak was detected: suspicion, confirmation,
- proximity to the relevant cases and outbreaks,
- farm density in the relevant geographical areas.

Main measures:

- immediately on suspicion, slaughter of livestock at the site of the suspected outbreak,
- immediately on confirmation of the outbreak, preventive slaughter of poultry on the farm and in its surroundings,
- livestock movement restriction measures backed by prefectural orders in order to avoid propagation of the H5N8 virus,
- intensified biosafety measures for all sector operators: farmers, carriers, veterinarians, pick-up personnel, etc.

RECOVERY OF DISEASE-FREE STATUS FOR HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA ON 27 OCTOBER 2017.

KEY FIGURES END 2016-2017

Number of outbreaks in farms: 486

Numbers of cases in wild animals: 55

Number of affected départements: 19

End 2017: no other identified case of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

PREVENTION AND BETTER ORGANISATION TO COMBAT A NEW EPIZOOTIC

- **Signing of a Pact against avian influenza and a relaunch of the fattening duck and geese sector on 13 April 2017 by 32 farming organisations and local government bodies.**

Multiple issues:

- public health
- animal protection in slaughter programmes
- economic, sanitary and environmental performance

- additionally, the need to ensure long-term viability for production modes involving outdoor runs.

Goals to be translated into concrete measures and commitments by every partner:

- improved detection of the disease and collective reactions when crises arise;
- greater security for the “production” and “transportation” links in the chain;
- intensified application of biosafety rules by those involved;
- action at European Union and international levels;
- implementation of a system of financial support for the consequences of HPAI.

THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE TWO “AVIAN INFLUENZA” CRISES

- Definition of an action plan to make the DGAL and its outlying services more resilient when a crisis occurs.
- These observations of fact, ongoing planning policy actions and measures set out in the Pact and the biosafety plan are all gathered together in this action plan. Part of this work began in 2017 and continues into 2018.

The action plan has five main headings:

- improvement of government organisation in times of crisis: for example, DGAL centralisation of identification, traceability and sanitary data, linked into sector information systems, will allow shared use of cartographic tools for the management of suspected and actual outbreaks (the SIGNAL project).
- optimisation of collective reactions in preparing and managing crises;
- action at European Union and international levels;
- consolidation of the government’s financial support systems;
- improvement of communication between the various actors.

THE EXPORT DIMENSION

- Mobilisation of the DGAL and French embassy economic departments to avoid imposition of trade restrictions by third countries.
- Measures to provide information and reassurance for the authorities in third countries, conducted by the agricultural advisers of embassy economic departments and the French Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), especially with regard to the countries of priority importance identified by industry federations.
- Many countries applying a regionalisation approach since



the 2015-2016 episode have continued to do so. Conversely, countries that have previously applied total embargoes despite all attempts to dissuade them have deferred discussions until restoration of disease-free status.

- Certain countries as of end 2017 had already rescinded their measures (e.g. Japan, Korea) but negotiations are still required with others maintaining their restrictions (China).
- Major efforts to ensure recognition of the principles of regionalisation and compartmentalisation

by third countries have been initiated in conjunction with embassy agricultural advisers, where applicable with the support of the European Commission. The aim is to put agreements in place for the maintenance of flows based on exports from disease-free areas. ■

EFFECTIVE SURVEILLANCE FOR CRISIS PREVENTION: PLATFORM CREATION

Epidemiological surveillance platforms are currently being set up for plant health and food chain surveillance; the platform for epidemiological surveillance in animal health, created in 2011, is to be strengthened.

OBJECTIVES

- to facilitate the operation of sanitary and biological surveillance across the country.
- to monitor changes in the diseases present.
- to detect the appearance of new diseases as early as possible.

WHAT IS AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE PLATFORM?

A multi-partner organisation that works to:

- define surveillance protocols,
- centralise, exploit and share sanitary data,
- analyse, interpret and disseminate sanitary data,
- maintain an international watch for sanitary hazards.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE MAKES IT POSSIBLE

- to detect the appearance of an emerging disease or a sanitary hazard,
- to assess its sanitary impact and economic consequences,
- to rank different control

- measures in order of priority,
- to assess the efficacy of the steps taken.

The epidemiological surveillance platform in animal health, set up in 2011, has proven its worth. Its members include the DGAL, ANSES, CIRAD, ONCFS, GDS France, Coop de France and SNGTV (national society of technical veterinarian groups), among others.

Surveillance of the *Xylella fastidiosa* bacterium has provided an opportunity to test a system of epidemiological surveillance in plant health.

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2017

The French National Food Conference designated as a priority measure the reinforcement of **such platforms as a means for the prevention of crises, whether sanitary or not**, and for the reduction of their human and financial costs (workshop 8).

- The agreement for the surveillance platform of the food chain (SCA) is presently open for signing by its fourteen members. Two working groups are current-

ly operating:

- "*Salmonella* in the cattle industry", to optimise surveillance of salmonella in raw milk cheese production;
- "*Salmonella* in pig carcasses", on the annual activity involved in collecting and analysing self-inspection results.
- **In plant health**, stakeholders' agreement on the principles for the setting up of a dedicated platform was widely shared in CNOPSAV and a draft framework agreement has been produced.

PARTNERS INVOLVED

Government (risk management), ANSES (scientific and technical support for epidemiology), INRA (agricultural, food and environmental research), APCA (chambers of agriculture), agricultural sanitary and technical organisations, veterinarians and laboratories, food and retail sector professionals.

This is a **public/private partnership**: shared areas of expertise, a search for consensus, interfacing of government and industry schemes. ■

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 regulated diseases such as bluetongue, avian influenza and bovine tuberculosis. 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.



BLUETONGUE SEROTYPE 4 DETECTED IN CONTINENTAL FRANCE: A NEW STRATEGY FROM 1 JANUARY 2018

An initial case of bluetongue serotype 4 was confirmed in early November 2017 in the Upper Savoy region of France. This serotype has been present in Corsica since November 2016. Conversely, serotype 8 has been widespread in continental France since 2015. The initial goal of eradication of the disease was revised at the end of 2017.

A government-financed emergency vaccination programme was carried out in a protection zone surrounding a small number of *départements* near the initial outbreak in order to contain the disease and maximise the probability of eradicating it. Surveillance was also put in place in the various areas involved in order to evaluate the sanitary situation. Given the appearance of further cases and the epidemiological data, changes were made to this strategy on 1 January 2018.

The new strategy approved by CNOPSAV (the liaison body between the ministry and relevant sector professionals) at its meeting on 21 December, abandons the goal of eradication in favour of an extension of the BTV4 regulated zone to cover the whole of continental France, with priority assigned to vaccination of certain livestock categories (sheep, livestock exchanges, exports, etc.).

Animals can now circulate freely across France, which is already having to address BTV8. Vaccination against BTV4 is currently voluntary, as it is for BTV8.

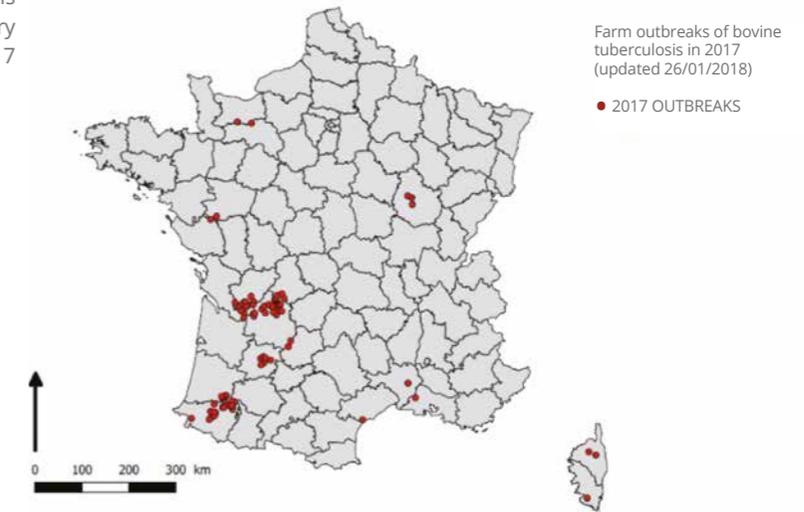
Bluetongue is an animal disease and is not transmissible to human beings. It has no impact on product quality (meat, milk, etc.). ■

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS: CONTINUING CAUSE FOR CONCERN

In 2017, 89 outbreaks of tuberculosis were detected on French territory. Major improvements were observed in the Côte d'or and Ardennes regions, whereas the situation in the Nouvelle Aquitaine region, which accounts for 85% of all cases, is currently the most worrying. In response to this still worrying sanitary state of affairs, a third action plan is being prepared for reinforced surveillance and prevention.

Despite many years of combat and enhanced surveillance, the infected areas in Nouvelle Aquitaine are tending to expand and the numbers of outbreaks to increase. The disease is also still present in the Camargue and in Corsica. In most infected areas, the disease is present in more than one species of wild fauna (badgers, wild boars,

Map of notified outbreaks of tuberculosis in cattle between 1 January and 31 December 2017



deer), which further complicates the situation.

The persistence of bovine tuberculosis in these areas is a threat to the maintenance of France's disease-free status and undermines the eradication of this category 1 disease, these being priority objectives reaffirmed on more than one occasion by CNOPSAV (the liaison body between the ministry and industry professionals), most recently on 12 October 2017.

The steps taken in 2017 were aimed at a **relaunch of the surveillance scheme for this disease** which has been affected by the other sanitary crises occurring over the last two years. Government has provided funding of €4.5m for the 2017-2018 prophylaxis campaign (compared with €1.5m the previous year).

A national "bovine tuberculosis" referent has been appointed and the staffing of the Nouvelle Aquitaine SRAL (regional food department) has been reinforced (animal health coordinators and an epidemiologist).

Numerous discussions with actors on the ground in Nouvelle Aquitaine have highlighted the difficulties involved in conducting effective screening, the consequence of which is a level of notification of suspect animals that significantly under-reflects actual prevalence. **A scheme for financial support for such screening** has been set up across the country to provide fair remuneration to veterinarians and limit the cost for farmers. An awareness-raising and training campaign for veterinarians and farmers has also been rolled out.

In addition, a call for tenders funded with €900,000 over three years was launched in 2017 by the DGAL to finance research projects aimed at **the provision of new screening and control tools for the disease**, such as badger vaccination and cost/benefit and cost effectiveness studies at local and national levels.

Responding to a still worrying sanitary situation and a CGAER report submitted in 2017 containing an assessment of efforts to control tuberculosis, **a third action plan is being prepared**. The aim of this is to improve the surveillance system, to develop biosafety measures in cattle farming and to reinforce and harmonise management of efforts to control the disease. ■



The signing of the agreement ratifying the creation of the national Centre of reference for animal welfare, 28 February 2017.

ANIMAL WELFARE CREATION OF A NATIONAL CENTRE OF REFERENCE

This Centre, set up in February 2017 and run by Inra, the National Institute for Agricultural Research, is a flagship measure in the Animal Welfare Action Plan launched by the minister in 2016.

The setting up of the Centre also involved the four national veterinary schools (Maisons-Alfort, Toulouse, Lyon and Nantes) and the main actors in applied research (Idele, Itavi, Ifip), represented by Acta.

A consultative committee will include animal protection associations and industry organisations in the work of the National Centre.

Among its first initiatives, the Centre began an assessment of a national research project founded jointly by the pig industry (Inaporc) and the DGAL.

In 2018, the National Centre will be pursuing its mandate to the full to disseminate the results of research and technical innovations, to provide scientific and technical support and a resource facility for training on animal welfare and protection. A roadmap setting out the various programmes to be conducted will be drawn up.

A new European Union regulation dated 27 April 2017 now requires of the European Union that it de-

signates European centres of reference for animal welfare. These centres will assist member states in applying their official controls. It is in this context that the French Centre will have a key role to play in highlighting the value of French research work at European Union level.

These centres of reference will also enable their scientific and technical expertise to help define methods of assessing and improving animal welfare. ■



A 2017-2020 ROADMAP FOR MAINTAINING A NETWORK OF RURAL VETERINARIANS

A roadmap to maintain and facilitate the activity of veterinarians in animal production and in rural areas has been drafted and was validated by the minister in April 2017.

The number of veterinarians providing, either exclusively or predominantly, medical and surgical services for farm livestock has shrunk by 3.2% in five years. There is a real risk of seeing “veterinary deserts” in some rural areas. Many veterinary practices are beginning to find it difficult to replace veterinarians entering retirement.

A number of working meetings for the drafting of this roadmap were organised by the DGAL with farming industry and veterinary organisations, along with local authorities. A roadmap has been designed around eight strategic focuses, translated into concrete actions during 2017:

Focus 1: Diagnostic analysis of veterinary demographics and analysis of criteria. **Focus 2:** Reconciliation of economic and sanitary high performance through objective measurement and matching supply with demand. **Focus 3:** Training and professionalisation of actors in animal production. **Focus 4:** Attractiveness

of local regions and long-term viability for veterinary and agricultural businesses. **Focus 5:** The economics of veterinary and agricultural businesses. **Focus 6:** Organisation of access to sanitary, technical and technico-economic data. **Focus 7:** Leadership of networks of certified, mandated veterinarians. **Focus 8:** Epidemiological surveillance.

In the case of Focus 3, in 2017 the DGAL provided funding of €430,000 for the supervision of 31 final-year students at the School of Veterinary Medicine on an 18-week mentored course in rural veterinary practices. From 2018 on, the number of students will rise to over 50. ■

2

PLANT HEALTH AND PROTECTION

The DGAL is responsible for drafting regulations on plant health, surveillance of plant health and combating the sanitary hazards that may affect it. In 2017, efforts to control *Xylella fastidiosa* mobilised its teams, as did other areas of concern notably relating to plant protection products.

XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA : MANAGEMENT AT EUROPEAN UNION LEVEL

In 2017, government services continued to conduct intensive surveillance across the country as a whole in addition to eradicating outbreaks in infected areas in Provence, the Riviera and Corsica. Inspections continued in the delimited outbreak areas to ensure adherence to the regulations and to protect the rest of the country. A containment strategy was adopted for Corsica. At the end of the year, a high-level meeting with the European Commission in attendance led to the drafting of an ambitious roadmap for the control of *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Identified for the first time in Europe in 2013, *Xylella fastidiosa* is a major phytosanitary priority for the European Union. It affects many countries, especially France, but also Germany, Spain and indeed Italy, where it has caused very substantial damage to olive groves.

The bacterium is transmitted by insects and attacks very many plant species (over 360 host species have been identified), leading to the withering, and indeed the death, of the plant if no curative action is taken.

In 2017, 41,918 inspections were conducted on French territory, including 7,675 in disease-free areas and 34,243 in delimited outbreak areas, leading to the identification of an additional 82 outbreaks in the space of a year, mainly in the two regions of Corsica and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

Overall, there has been little change in France's phytosanitary situation. Intensified surveillance is continuing while government services apply a policy of eradication in infected areas.



The 2017 national action plan is available on line :
<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/les-mesures-de-lutte-contre-xylella-fastidiosa>

The main changes in measures since December 2017 relate to the arrangements for surveillance, control and circulation of specified plants on the European Union territory. Specifically, the switch to a strategy of containment has been validated for Corsica and the Balearic Islands.

On 1 December 2017, Stéphane Travert, France's Minister of Agriculture and Food, and Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, invited to Paris the 10 member states most concerned by *Xylella fastidiosa*. A roadmap was drawn up to strengthen prevention and control measures at EU level and enhance communication directed at the general public, especially travellers, in order to prevent the disease being spread by them. ■

A plant infected with the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*



CEPP CERTIFICATES: A FULLY OPERATIONAL SCHEME

The CEPP (plant protection product saving certificates) scheme launched in September 2016 was cancelled by the Conseil d'État in late 2016 on procedural grounds. It is now back in place and operating. Inspired by the energy savings certificate, the CEPP scheme is a new tool for leveraging the Ecophyto II plan to contribute to the goal of reducing PPP use.

Following the cancellation pronounced by the Conseil d'État in an order issued on 7 October 2015, the legislative and regulatory foundations of the PPP saving certificates (CEPP) scheme had to be re-established. This has now been done with the publication in April and May 2017 of new official instruments: a Conseil d'État decree and four official orders.

The scheme involves nearly 1,750 distributors, of whom approximately 1,200 continue actively to sell plant protection products to trade customers. The total for scheme obligations notified to them stands at 16.8 million Certificates to be obtained in 2021.

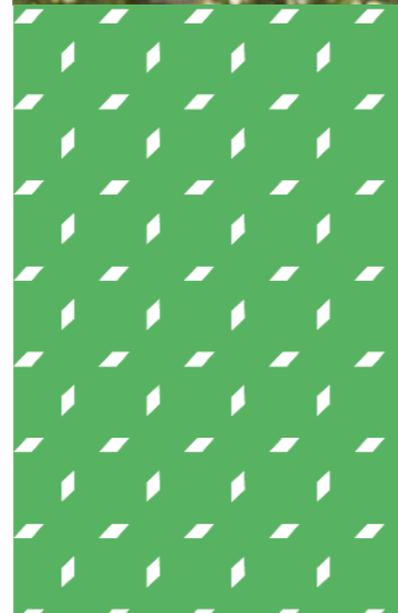
In order to meet an obligation notified by the DGAL, the operators involved must apply standard measures by 2021 and declare them on

an IT dedicated platform set up by the DGAL.

The above standard measures have been suggested by actors in the farming world to a committee of independent experts led by INRA and then published in an official order by the Minister of Agriculture. To date, there are 31 such measures (only 20 in 2016) for which the reference datasheets have been enriched. Other proposals are in the pipeline.

The CEPP scheme is now fully operational. Using the online declaration platform, operators have been able to make their first applications for issuance of Certificates for measures applied from 1 July to 31 December 2016. In fact, 341 applications for Certificates have been sent in by 87 "obligation" holders in the scheme and 230,000 Certificates have been obtained for the 2016 season.

Operators have until 31 March 2018 to declare measures implemented in 2017. ■



MANDATORY SPECIFICATIONS FOR FERTILISER SALE AND USE

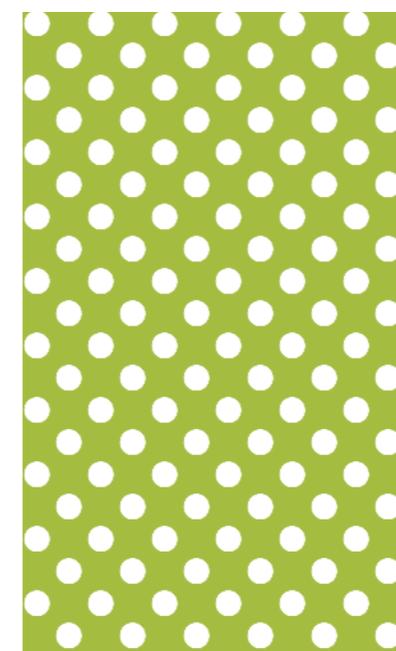
The conditions governing the placing of fertilisers on the market and their use were revised in 2015, in line with the 2014 Law on the Future of Agriculture.

The new provisions give the Minister of Agriculture and Food a power of exemption from the requirement of prior authorisation for the sale and use of fertilisers, fertiliser additives and growing media where they are compliant with a set of mandatory specifications approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.

An initial ministerial order approving a set of mandatory standards was signed in June 2017 following issuance of an opinion by ANSES. Those specifications relate to methanisation digestates from agricultural biogas production.

It contains stipulations on the methanisation process, a list of inputs that can be used, storage conditions, uses for fertilisation and labelling details for the organic soil improver produced.

Products compliant with those specifications are exempted from the requirement to obtain a marketing permit from ANSES. They can be



DEVELOPMENT OF BIOCONTROL

The Law on the Future of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (2014) introduced several provisions aimed at fostering and developing biocontrol methods for the protection of plants. Development of biocontrol solutions is continuing.

Biocontrol products are agents and products that make use of natural mechanisms as part of an integrated control programme for crop pests. They notably comprise macroorganisms (acaridians, insects and nematodes) used to protect plants from pests by using biological control methods and plant protection products composed of micro-organisms and chemical mediators such as pheromones and natural substances of plant, animal or mineral origin.

The Ministry of Agriculture updates regularly (currently every other month) a list of biocontrol plant protection products: as of 22 January 2018, this contained 421 products, 132 more than on the first list published in March 2016.

In order to foster the development of biocontrol products, they are given the benefit of accelerated procedures for the evaluation and examination of applications for marketing authorisations (AMM),

plus lower fees for those procedures. Other regulatory requirements are also relaxed, a reduction in plant pharmacovigilance levies, for example.

Unlike conventional products, biocontrol products can continue to be used on green spaces and parks open to the public. From 1 January 2019, only products bearing the EAJ mark ("garden use authorised") can continue to be sold to non-professional gardeners, and the latter will cease to enjoy access to conventional products. ■



A NEW OFFICIAL ORDER ON PPP USE

A new official order on the marketing and use of plant protection products (PPP) and their additives was published on 4 May 2017.

The order of 4 May 2017 reiterates already existing provisions controlling the placing on the market and the use of plant protection products and their additives.

For example, it lays down the maximum wind speed above which the products can no longer be applied, the periods to be adhered to between application and harvest and the minimum period to elapse before farm workers can enter treated plots following use of the products.

It contains measures aimed at preventing the pollution of water points by drifting spray or run-off. It further provides for the limitation of localised pollution notably caused by fertiliser spreading and the draining of residual product from sprayers.

The official order of 4 May 2017 adds a small number of changes compared with the regulations previously in force. It gives a new definition of a water point, increases the period that must elapse before workers can re-enter a plot after it has been treated with a product in the mutagenic, reprotoxic or carcinogenic categories, and authorises the use of individual protective equipment meeting the most up-to-date standards. ■

SAFE, HIGH-QUALITY FOOD FOR ALL

Application of food policy and guaranteed food safety for health are central to the DGAL's activity. Consumer information was a particular focus in 2017.

3

Five logos indicating products nutritional quality:



NUTRITIONAL LABELLING: SIGNING OF AN OFFICIAL ORDER RECOMMENDING THE USE OF “NUTRI-SCORE”

The official order concerning Nutri-Score, a nutritional labelling scheme for food products, was signed on 31 October 2017 by the Minister of Solidarity and Health, the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Secretary of State to the Minister of Economy and Finance. The DGAL took part in 2017 in every stage leading to official recognition of the scheme, alongside the General Directorate for Health (DGS), acting as lead for this project, and the Directorate General for Consumer Affairs (DGCCRF).

Nutri-Score is the scheme the government has chosen to recommend following an approach based on dialogue with stakeholders and an evaluation conducted in late

2016 in actual purchasing conditions in 60 retail outlets.

The results of this evaluation showed that Nutri-Score is the scheme most easily understood and the most effective in improving the nutritional quality of the food basket of the population as a whole and especially the most deprived customers. Auchan, Leclerc, Intermarché, Fleury Michon, Danone and McCain have already associated themselves with the programme and use Nutri-Score on their products.

Nutri-Score is a graphic system that grades a food product in one of five classes based on an aggregate nutritional score. Using a five-colour coded scale (ranging from dark green to dark orange), coupled with letters from A (“higher nutri-

Consumer information and improvements in the food market offering for the general public are major goals and issues in the French National Food Programme (PNA) and its social justice pillar, in line with the work done under the PNNS (French national nutrition & health programme).

tional quality”) to E (“lower nutritional quality”), Nutri-Score provides consumers, during their shopping, with clear, comprehensible information on the overall nutritional quality of products.

This means that consumers can easily compare products on the same shelf and choose to prefer foods offering higher nutritional quality.

Recognition of a single official system for nutritional information constitutes significant progress for consumer information. All manufacturers and retailers are invited to adopt this model, which will be supported by the French government in seeking harmonisation across the European Union. ■

“ALIM’CONFIANCE”: TRANSPARENCY FOR SANITARY INSPECTION OUTCOMES

Since 3 April 2017, consumers have been able to find out the results of official sanitary inspections in all establishments in the food chain by going online to alim-confiance.gouv.fr.

Publication of the outcomes of official sanitary inspections in the food sector (restaurants, canteens, slaughterhouses, etc.) is a response to a legitimate expectation by citizens and helps improve consumer confidence. This measure was included in the 2014 Law on the Future of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and is part of a movement toward greater transparency for government action. In the eight European countries where this is in place, it is invariably accompanied by improved sanitary conditions in establishments.

The data displayed relate to official inspections conducted after 1 March 2017 and contain the name of the establishment, the date of the most recent inspection and the level of hygiene. In the case of slaughterhouses, the establishment’s level of sanitary control is indicated, given that the results of the inspection also cover adherence to animal protection standards. There are four possible levels of hygiene or sanitary

control: “very satisfactory”, “satisfactory”, “requires improvement” and “requires urgent correction”.

Establishments dealing directly with the public (restaurants, food outlets, retailers) and institutional catering facilities have the option of displaying their hygiene level at the entrance to their premises.

Only establishments whose hygiene is graded “requires urgent correction” present irregularities likely to endanger consumer health. In the case of such establishments, the authorities will order closure or withdrawal/suspension of sanitary approval.

The time periods allowed for application of corrective measures are assessed on a case-by-case basis depending on the character of the irregularities and the sanitary situation of the establishment judged to be unsatisfactory. ■

Website:

730,000 unique visits to the page

Mobile application (smartphone & tablet):

225,000 downloads

*Data: end 2017





SHELLFISH SURVEILLANCE: A CHANGING SYSTEM

The sanitary surveillance system in shellfish-producing areas changed on 1 January 2018. Shellfish sampling and testing aimed at monitoring sanitary quality in production areas – activities previously conducted by Ifremer – have now been made part of the remit of Prefects, who in turn rely on the DD(CS)PPs and/or DDTMs.

Historically, the DGAL was reliant on Ifremer (French research institute for exploitation of the sea) for implementation of sanitary surveillance of shellfish production areas. Ifremer contracted out some of the sampling to professionals and certain tests to *département* laboratories.

In late 2012, Ifremer decided to re-focus its core tasks on research and consequently announced that it no longer wished to undertake some of the activities involved in microbiological and phycotoxin surveil-

lance. Since then, the DGAL has been working with Ifremer, industry professionals and *département* laboratories to put a new system of surveillance in place.

From 1 January 2018, the monitoring and operation of the microbiological and phycotoxin surveillance networks have been reassigned to the decentralised agencies in accordance with a local organisational structure defined by the Prefects.

In all cases, shellfish sampling and testing for surveillance purposes is entrusted to the test laboratory for the *département* under a formal service agreement signed between the directorate for the *département* (DD(CS)PP or DDTM) and the laboratory. The laboratory may decide to outsource all or part of the sampling and/or testing to third parties, or to shellfish industry bodies, especially where testing requires specific nautical resources.

Special national training programmes have been organised for operators and DD(CS)PP and DDTM staff tasked with implementing the system in order to familiarise them with detailed surveillance arrangements.

Ifremer, in the role of provider of assistance to the system owner, will continue to carry out expert tasks: definition of surveillance prescriptions, issuance of alerts, results dissemination and archiving and provision of technical support. Ifremer continues to be responsible for sanitary studies for grading production areas, operating the chemical contaminant monitoring network, water sampling for the detection of toxic algae capable of contaminating shellfish and maintaining a watching brief for emerging phycotoxins. ■

4

COMBATING SANITARY CRIME

The French national unit for veterinary and phytosanitary investigations (BNEVP) can be called upon at very short notice by the DGAL. Its activities are focused on combating organised crime. The 17-strong team conducts enquiries on the ground throughout France and is vested with judicial and administrative policing powers. In 2017, 39 new cases were investigated by the BNEVP. These involved a range of offences such as trafficking in dogs, horses, veterinary medicines, foodstuffs and plant protection products. Some, such as counterfeiting plant protection products or trafficking in live animals, involve the whole European Union and therefore require BNEVP officers to cooperate closely with other member states.

NUMEROUS IRREGULARITIES RELATING TO TRADE IN WILD ANIMALS

Very close cooperation between the DGAL's BNEVP (National unit for veterinary and phytosanitary investigations) and ONCFS (National office for hunting and wild fauna) led to the detection of fraud relating to the introduction of wild fauna (deer and wild boar) into hunting estates and enclosures in the European Union.

Following joint enquiries in various *départements*, numerous irregularities were noted, among them missing sanitary certificates, incomplete certificates and non-compliance with hunting regulations. Three cases were referred to public prosecutors. One was heard in the courts in late 2017 and harsh sentences handed down: very substantial fines and a 10-month prison term for the principal defendant.

This verdict illustrates the effectiveness of interdepartmental cooperation in a prosecution covering many areas of jurisdiction and requiring the support of the DGAL's technical sections. ■



FALSIFICATION OF HORSE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS BY TRADERS

Horse traders were using falsified documentation to send horses to slaughter that were in principle unfit for human consumption.

During slaughterhouse enquiries, a BNEVP officer's attention was drawn to falsified drug treatment documentation. Subsequent investigation revealed that two traders had been buying horses from owners who did not wish their animal to be slaughtered. Going against their owners' express desires, 98 horses were taken to slaughter using false documentation in this way. Both traders were

sentenced to a suspended 3-month prison term, a fine of €2,000; their agricultural grouping (GAEC) was fined €20,000, €10,000 of which was suspended. ■

IMPORTS OF VETERINARY MEDICINES WITHOUT AUTHORISATION

On 19 December 2017, the Bordeaux Appeal Court confirmed the convictions of several livestock farmers for importing from Spain veterinary medicines not authorised for sale in France.

The farmers concerned were each ordered to pay a suspended fine of €1,000 for the offence and a customs fine amounting to nearly €30,000. A BNEVP officer worked on this difficult case in close collaboration with a national referent and the DGAL technical office, the Order of Veterinary Surgeons, the French national agency for veterinary medicines and the legal affairs department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The case demanded considerable effort, including for the presentation of legal arguments at hearing.

This ruling is one more stage in a very extensive prosecution that has involved, in succession, the Niort magistrates' court, the Poitiers Appeal Court, the Cour de Cassation (French supreme court) and the European Court of Justice (ECJ). ■



INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

In October 2017, a Marseille Court ruled on a case involving international trafficking in plant protection products. The trafficking involved circumvention of the regulations on import permits for "grey market" or "parallel" products.

The traffickers were misleading distributors and users by marketing counterfeit products that had no valid permits that would allow them to be placed on the market (AMM) and were not produced by compliant systems of manufacturing.

The facts in this case were uncovered by the DGAL's BNEVP in 2007. Enquiries were conducted by OCLAESP (French central bureau for the investigation of damage to the environment and public health) on behalf of the Marseille centre

for public health, which opened the case. The investigation, in which the BNEVP's "PPP" investigators subsequently participated actively, led to the taking down of an international network for the sale of illegal plant protection products under the cover of import permits for "grey market" or "parallel" products.

Sentences of up to four years in prison, suspended, and fines of more than €170,000 were handed down by the court for participants in the network.

This is the first substantial case of its kind to come before French courts. It was the outcome of time-consuming work that notably involved Gendarmerie and BNEVP investigators travelling to Luxembourg, Germany, the Czech Republic and Monaco. ■



ILLEGAL ENTRY OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS INTO FRANCE

From 2011 to 2013, two fruit growers in the Hautes-Alpes département personally imported Spanish and Italian products into France without following mandatory rules: i.e. obtaining a permit to do so and paying the diffuse pollution charge.

Empty packaging for the plant protection products was burned on the holding of one defendant to eliminate all traces of purchase and use.

Since the products were not covered by any permit for their sale in France they were in fact not eligible for the normal PPP packaging disposal system.

The BNEVP, with the support of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur SRAL (regional food department), observed a number of irregularities in 2013. These checks were followed up in enquiries conducted by the Gendarmerie. The Gap regional court handed down a ver-

dict in March 2015 ordering the two growers to pay several thousand euros.

An appeal against this judgement was lodged in the Grenoble Appeal Court, leading to a ruling issued in a public hearing in May 2016. It upheld all elements of the lower court's judgement and added the offence of non-compliant waste management for both growers. ■

SANITARY ALERTS AND CRISES

Every year, the DGAL sanitary alert unit (MUS) handles over a thousand alerts, with help from the decentralised services in France's territorial *départements* (DDecPPs) and the DGAL's technical offices. In 2017, it was heavily involved in the crises surrounding avian influenza and fipronil residue in eggs, the subject of considerable media attention in France, as well as cases of collective foodborne illness and other alerts relating to products such as raw milk cheese, shellfish, prepared meat products, etc.

5

FIPRONIL IN EGGS: A FRAUD WITH REPERCUSSIONS IN 20 EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES

A Belgian operator marketed an antiparasitic (DEGA16) for red mite control on poultry farms. This illegal product turned out to contain fipronil, an insecticide prohibited for the treatment of livestock intended for human consumption.

The Belgian authorities warned the other member states of the offence in July and on 5 August, France was informed that it had received contaminated products. The affair attracted considerable media attention in France.

Although any risk to human health was ruled out (cf. ANSES opinion of 21 August 2017), investigations on poultry farms and in establishments producing egg products were conducted by the DD(CS)PPs.

Enquiries were carried out on over 4,600 livestock farms, specifically focusing on the use of fipronil and more generally on the use of antiparasitics on over 1,100 farms. No use of the product causing the contamination was detected on the poultry farms, with the exception of one holding in the Pas-de-Calais that made an unsolicited notification. Cases of misuse of veterinary products (Ami-traz) were nevertheless uncovered and these will need to be rectified.

Traceability enquiries both in France and abroad led to the identification of the establishments that had received contaminated eggs and egg products from the Netherlands and Belgium.

The relevant products were all immediately withdrawn from sale in France by professionals in the food supply chain. **The levels of fipronil detected in the products presented no risk for the consumer, according to scientific opinions.**

In France, management of the crisis featured a concern to ensure transparency for consumers.

The list of products offered for sale in France with a level of fipronil exceeding the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) has been posted on line on the Ministry's website:

 <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/fipronil-liste-des-produits-re-tires-de-la-vente-en-france>

These measures were supplemented by the following:

- **self-inspections by sector businesses** receiving suspect eggs or egg products;
- **a national plan for surveillance and official inspections** conducted by DD(CS)PP inspection staff, involving more than

750 samples of eggs and egg products;

- **an European inspection plan** led by EFSA (European Food Safety Agency) and implemented by the DDPPs, involving over 620 samples and detection targeting around a dozen antiparasitic molecules.

This episode, which fortunately had no consequences for human health, also resulted in the **emergence of concrete proposals for improvements in the prevention and management of sanitary crises at European level:**

- clearer, interconnected networks for information exchange;
- harmonisation of management measures with earlier and closer involvement of the Commission;
- a stronger role for EFSA;
- adjustment of inspection plans for more effective detection of illegal activity in the food supply chain.

Nationally, a feedback exercise will be conducted in 2018 with the help of the CNA (French National Food Council). ■

A NEW NATIONAL PLAN FOR SANITARY INTERVENTION IN ANIMAL HEALTH

The combined effects of globalisation and climate change are increasingly exposing our livestock sectors to sanitary risks, both known and emerging. The adjustment of our organisational stance is consequently the goal assigned to France's national Plan for emergency sanitary intervention (PNISU).

The Plan, drawn up by the DGAL in conjunction with its sanitary emergency unit (MUS), lays down a national framework for preparation for, and responding to the sanitary threats that may impact livestock farms.

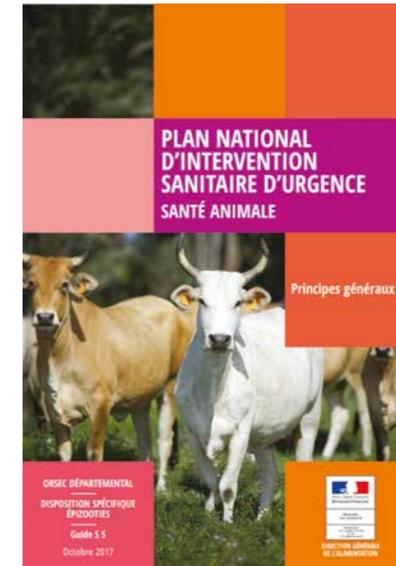
The setting up of an operational chain of command and crisis management tools that are both appropriate and efficient is essential for an effective emergency response to sanitary incidents if their impact is to be limited. The Plan is designed to mobilise and coordinate the various actors in any sanitary crisis. It consists of a set of general principles, specific plans for each disease targeted by the PNISU and technical guides.

The following are involved: government *departments* at defence zone level, local government at regional

and département levels and their partners. These measures are an integral part of France's civil emergency response system (ORSEC). ■



Find this document at:
<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/nouveau-plan-national-dintervention-sanitaire-pni-su-en-sante-animale>



SUSPECTED FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN THE ARDÈCHE

A suspicion of foot-and-mouth disease on a free-range pig farm in northern Ardèche was addressed by the DDCSPP on 5-6 December 2017. Following an expert assessment that the suspicion was plausible, samples were taken to the reference test laboratory over 500km away. The suspicion was swiftly ruled to be groundless.

France has had officially recognised disease-free status since 2001. Vigilance, prevention and early detection are the main measures applied to avoid the spread of an epizootic.

This case of suspicion in late 2017 is a good illustration of the rapid reactions of the surveillance system as well as the preparation and coordination of government services and their partners. A complete series of virological tests continued into the night in order to arrive at a conclusion invalidating the suspicion by the morning, lifting the restrictive measures and standing down those ready to take part in a possible slaughter programme in the event of confirmation.

Foot-and-mouth disease, a viral condition mainly affecting pigs and

ruminants, is a highly challenging economic threat due to its extreme contagiousness.

Detection is reliant on event-based surveillance (clinical signs or lesions) by holders of livestock and sanitary veterinarians: levels of vigilance and skill are maintained by awareness-raising programmes and regular training. ■

SURVEILLANCE OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

This involves event-based surveillance (clinical signs or lesions) covering all animal species vulnerable to the disease across the whole of France. All events indicative of the condition are notified to the sanitary authorities (DDCSPP) by a veterinarian who will have been called in by a farmer in most cases. The decision to confirm the notification and treat it as a genuine suspected case is underpinned by an expert assessment conducted by the “foot-and-mouth unit”.

The “foot-and-mouth unit” is staffed by a multidisciplinary team from the ANSES LSAⁿ (animal health laboratory). It is on call around the clock and can issue a ruling within the hour, in conjunction with the DDCSPP.

FOODBORNE ILLNESS LINKED TO TUNA CONSUMPTION

In the months April to July 2017, 29 foodborne illness outbreaks (FIOs) linked to the presence of histamine in tuna were notified in France, affecting 189 people. In just a few months, these statistics exceeded the entirety of 2016 (25 FIOs, 100 victims). A complex investigation was conducted to find the source of the contamination.

The DGAL sanitary alert unit (MUS) sought to identify the source of the contamination by tracking back traceability data for the products eaten by those who fell ill.

For 20 out of 26 FIOs, it was demonstrated that the toxic foodstuff was deep frozen yellowfin or bigeye tuna loin processed in Spain, where seven producers were identified. The FIOs involved a range of batches and fisheries areas.

It was not always possible to sample the tuna at the actual site of the meal that led to the FIO. Some of the samples taken under these conditions confirmed the presence of histamine at levels over 3000ppm (the safe limit is set at 200ppm).

FIOs linked to Spanish tuna have also been reported in several member states, with 150 people falling ill in Spain. Given the scale of the situation, an EU audit mission was conducted in late June 2017.

These FIOs could be due to a range of factors:

- the use in the fresh tuna processing system of tuna intended for canning, often coming from ships with inadequate means for conservation for fresh tuna (-10°C instead of -20°C);
- the use of additives that modify the appearance of the fish by restoring a fresh, red colour to the tuna loin, masking possible deterioration of the product;
- poor hygiene practice at the point of direct delivery to the consumer, e.g. failure to maintain the cold chain.

In France, this state of affairs led to the stepping up of inspections of tuna loin during the “Holiday Food Operations” conducted during the summer of 2017. ■

DETECTION OF *PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM* ON LARCHES IN THE FINISTÈRE

In May 2017, the DGAL's forest health department identified for the first time in France *Phytophthora ramorum* on Japanese larches in the Finistère region. This pathogen is capable of killing certain species it infects, larches among them.

P. ramorum attacks numerous forest and ornamental woody species (around 120 species) with differing effects. There are various lines: those present in America differ from those in Europe.

In Europe, the larch and the chestnut are currently the forest hosts most at risk. In France, *P. ramorum* has until now been detected principally on rhododendrons in Brittany, Normandy and Loire Valley. No cases have been reported on chestnut trees. It has killed numerous trees in England, leading to the felling of large numbers of Japanese larches.

P. ramorum is an organism that infests leaves and is transmitted mainly by wind and contact via infected water droplets.

In the two outbreaks discovered in the Finistère, steps to manage it were taken by the DRAAF. A survey of the current status of the forest

and surroundings was carried out. Felling of contaminated trees is currently under way and will be completed before the next sporulation period. Over 6,000 cu. m. of larch wood will be removed from the area. Within the outbreak areas, access is denied to the general public, movement of plants is limited and tools and machinery are disinfected in order to avoid propagation of the pathogen. ■

WHAT IS *PHYTOPHTHORAS* EXACTLY?

The *phytophthoras* are “oomycetes”, a category of organism with around a thousand member species. Due to a morphological resemblance, for many years they were considered to be close relatives of fungi, whereas they are in fact mobile aquatic organisms.





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INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND CONTACTS

The DGAL takes part in the work and negotiations of European and international bodies in the sanitary and phytosanitary spheres. In 2017, it contributed to the negotiations on Brexit and free-trade agreements and conducted cooperation programmes. It has obtained numerous openings or reopenings of markets and participated in the roll-out of new border controls on imports.



PARTICIPATION IN FREE-TRADE AGREEMENTS

A feature of 2017 was the negotiation of free-trade agreements between the European Union and numerous third countries, in particular Japan, the Mercosur countries (Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentine) and Mexico.

In the cases of all these agreements negotiated by the European Commission, the DGAL is closely attentive to the unfolding negotiations and endeavours to provide relevant information to the European Commission in order:

- to improve, within a framework of balanced cooperation, access for our French companies to third-country markets with a view to removing sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to exports;
- to argue for, preserve and promote widely our food model and our system of sanitary and phytosanitary standards with regard to third countries.

The DGAL is especially vigilant with regard to **the pursuit of the above goals in the context of the negotiations for the EU-Mercosur agreement** which have been ongoing since 1999. This is so because major deficiencies in the Brazilian sanitary system have been pointed

BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS: DGAL INPUT FOR FRANCE'S POSITION

The negotiations surrounding the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from, and its future relationship with the European Union raise very major issues for the DGAL, notably regarding the potential consequences for imports and exports to and from the United Kingdom.

In accordance with the referendum of 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom will be leaving the European Union on 29 March 2019. The DGAL, in conjunction with the other directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, is in discussions with all other interested parties, notably at interministerial level and with industry actors, with a view to helping define a position protective of French interests. The aim is to provide the European Union's chief

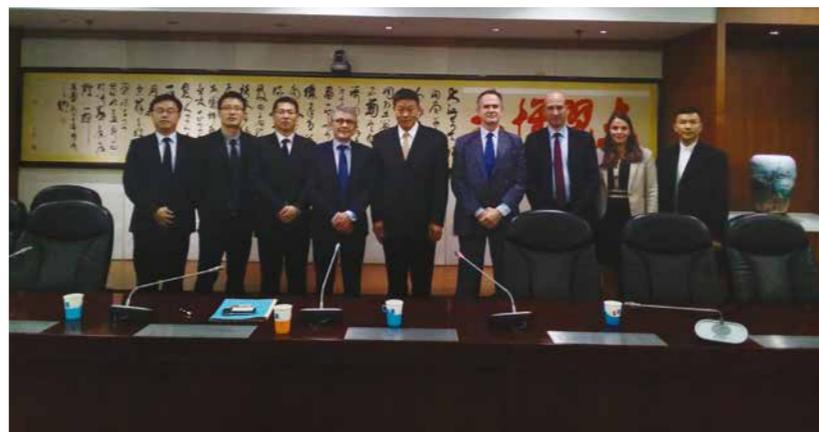
negotiator, Michel Barnier, and his staff, with all the information required to arrive at a balanced compromise with the United Kingdom.

The DGAL will be seeking to ensure that that compromise preserves a high level of sanitary safety for European consumers and provides all required guarantees for the protection of animal and plant health on national territory. ■

up by the European Commission following an audit mission conducted in Brazil in May 2017.

With regard to the application of the agreements, **the agreement between the European Union and Canada (CETA)** entered provisionally into force on 21 September 2017. **The government adopted an action plan on 25 October 2017** intended to ensure that its implementation is exemplary. In the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) domain, the plan includes concrete measures aimed at ensuring that imported Canadian products respect European SPS standards, for example by guaranteeing effective application of traceability on imported products by means of an audit programme.

Looking beyond CETA, the action plan is also directed at **improving consideration for SPS issues in all trade agreements** in order to guarantee greater consistency between trade policy and our model of agricultural production, which is safe for the consumer and committed to an ecological transition. **The DGAL took part in the drafting of this action plan and is participating in its implementation.** ■



BILATERAL COOPERATION AND TWINNING

The DGAL cooperates with many countries in order to share its technical expertise and highlight the value of the French sanitary and food model.

In 2017, the twinning arrangement aimed at reinforcing controls on plant protection products between **Morocco and the European Union**, led by France in a consortium with Germany, concluded with a high degree of success. It led to 80 expert missions from participating French and German institutions. A new twinning arrangement, also led by France, alongside Hungary, has begun in Serbia. The goal is to strengthen the expertise of the Serbian Veterinary Directorate in the areas of zoonosis surveillance and antimicrobial resistance.

The twinning with **the Turkish veterinary services**, aimed at upgrading to meet European standards for official sanitary inspections, is continuing at a sustained pace and

involves numerous experts from the DGAL and the decentralised services. This arrangement has been strengthened by numerous standalone bilateral cooperation initiatives with the Turkish authorities.

Bilateral cooperation programmes are also being pursued with many countries, most notably with **the sanitary and phytosanitary authorities of Iran.**

In 2017, the DGAL once again supported the “Summer School” run by the National School of Veterinary Services (ENSV) for official veterinarians. The bonds this has established with the many foreign management staff trained on governance and national and international sanitary regulations by the ENSV over the last several years are extremely useful and the individuals concerned are invaluable contacts for the DGAL. ■

EXPADON 2 DEMATERIALISED APPROVAL APPLICATIONS

In 2017, the Expadon 2 export approval management module, a software package for dematerialising export sanitary and phytosanitary procedures, went on line. Henceforth all applications for official approval must go through this tool.

This covers 90 country/product couplings and an approximate total volume of 6,000 approvals. The IT and design work for the other modules, the information website and the remote application procedure for sanitary and phytosanitary certificates, among other items, are now 95% finalised. The aim is to continue the IT developments for initial activations online by the end of 2018 or early 2019. ■

 <http://www.franceagrimer.fr/International/Exportations/Expadon-2>



Number of foreign delegations hosted for audit or inspection missions relating to veterinary and phytosanitary matters:

25 delegations from 18 different countries

22 markets opened for animal and plant products

15 markets reopened and 6 trade facilitations

MARKET OPENINGS AND REOPENINGS

The DGAL negotiates sanitary and phytosanitary terms for the export of French agrifood products with third countries. It endeavours to open or reopen markets or alternatively to maintain or relax sanitary conditions for access by French businesses to existing markets.

Reopening usually relates to markets that have been closed due to embargoes applied in the wake of a sanitary crisis (avian influenza, bluetongue, BSE or “mad cow disease”, etc.).

New markets are opened up in most cases following requests from industry sectors.

In all cases, these matters are prioritised by FranceAgriMer export committees. Negotiations are required to open or reopen a market, with sufficient proof being provided as to the sanitary quality of the ex-

ported products. Their success often requires hosting one or more inspection or audit missions from the third country and responding to questionnaires.

The DGAL is also involved in negotiating with the sanitary authorities of third countries in order to maintain, extend or relax sanitary conditions to be met for export certificates or demands imposed by the importing country, etc.

In 2017, the DGAL welcomed 25 delegations from 18 third countries. It opened up 22 markets, in-

cluding Malaysia, Peru and Brazil for horses, the USA and Canada for egg products, Mexico for pigmeat and, where plant products are concerned, Vietnam for table potatoes, the USA for ornamental plants, and so on. Most notably, the DGAL successfully negotiated the reopening of poultry markets closed due to the avian influenza crisis (Japan, Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Iran, Iraq, Israel). ■

The veterinary and phytosanitary border inspection service (SIVEP-DRIAAF). Import controls on three sea otters arriving from Alaska for the Océanopolis marine attraction in Brest. A special Plexiglas cage was constructed for the purpose.



APPLICATION OF NEW BORDER CONTROLS ON IMPORTS

In 2017, the DGAL participated in the roll-out of new border controls on imports from third countries.

Since June 2017, border posts under DGAL authority have been verifying **the biological quality of animal food products** and animal feed imported into France. Each imported batch declared as organically farmed is subject to a documentary check on its organic inspection certificate issued by a controlling body recognised by the European Commission. If this check reveals irregularities, the imported batch is reclassified as a conventional agricultural import. Identifica-

tion checks are also regularly carried out on imported batches in order to verify that the product labelling is compliant and that there is no illicit use of the product statement "Organic Farming".

2017 was also a year which saw the preparation for a new system of

border controls on the introduction to national territory of exotic invasive species. **The purpose of these controls will be to prevent imports of exotic animal or plant species** whose introduction would constitute a threat to biodiversity and ecosystems.

Lists of exotic invasive species of concern for metropolitan France have now been drawn up and specific lists are currently being drafted for France's départements and overseas territories. **Roll-out of these controls will be complete in 2018 at border posts under DGAL authority.**

The new controls supplement the veterinary and phytosanitary checks already in force for animals, plants and animal and plant products imported from third countries, the purpose of which is to verify that imported products offer sanitary guarantees compliant with European Union regulations. ■

MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES

The DGAL possesses a rapidly developing system of governance and tools enabling it to guarantee the proper functioning of its services: a strategic plan for 2017-2019, an action plan for the prevention of psychosocial risks, a quality programme, a totally overhauled information system, and more.

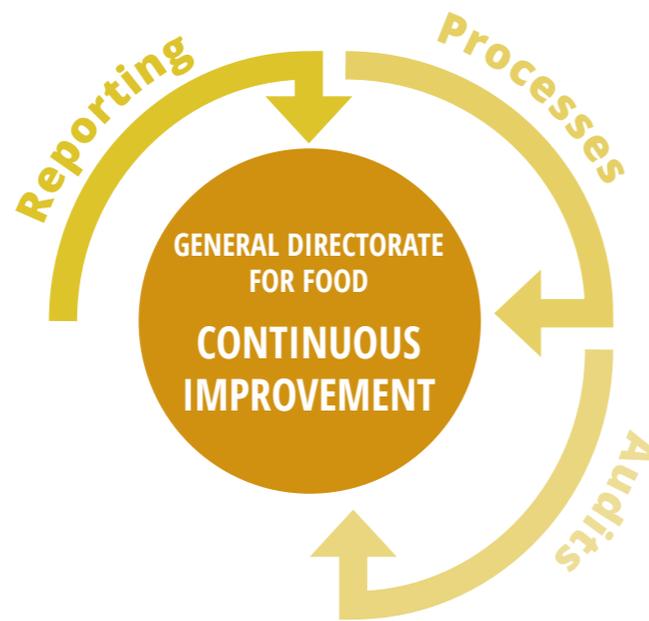
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QUALITY-LED MANAGEMENT A PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVEMENT

The DGAL is committed to quality-led management founded on a process-based approach and it is pursuing its action in this area, aiming to make quality a tool available to all the working community for continuous improvement of the operation of its organisation.

All the datasheets describing the processes of the DGAL as an organisation have now been published with the formalisation in 2017 of the process "Observation, surveillance, prevention and processing alerts". Key to each datasheet is a flow chart describing the various stages in the process, to which are associated the relevant actors, actions and tools.

With a view to continuous improvement, internal audits are notably conducted to ensure that the risks inherent in our activities are under control, identify possible irregularities and share good practice. ■



Audit method datasheets are published in order to assist auditors as well as the DGAL's organisational entities. These documents set out in detail the main deliverables expected from audits, as based on a risk-focused approach.

A call for applications for the execution of management process audits has been published. It targets directors, deputy directors, departmental heads, heads of division, regional quality leadership providers (CRAQ) and all members of staff of the DGAL organisation who have held posts of responsibility. Nearly 30 candidates were selected in 2017 and they will be trained in the specific techniques required for management process audits. This is a standing call for applications and future auditors will be selected as and when appropriate.

Local quality managers (RQL), CRAQs, process managers and the DGAL's office for quality-led management provide support to directors and the entire working community in implementing the system of quality-led management.

This information has all enabled the project group to draw up an action plan with 35 concrete measures organised under 5 broad headings (Communication Tools – Work Interviews – Supervisory-level Management – Remote Working – Time Management). After validation by the administration and by staff representatives, the action plan will be rolled out in 2018 and monitored by the combined working group. ■



THE DGAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2017-2019

The 2017-2019 Strategic Plan launched on 23 March 2017 is the outcome of a major collective effort of analysis and forward projection involving the various actors responsible for defining and conducting the DGAL's core tasks.

The Plan includes 33 measures organised around 3 strategic pillars whose implementation has been entrusted to lead actors. The first meetings of the oversight committees took place on 27 June and 21 November 2017.

It aims to promote a shared vision of the DGAL's action in the veterinary public health sphere and to roll out operational measures over the

next three years. The concrete measures are intended to consolidate intervention of DGAL departments on subjects of core importance and modernise working arrangements to enhance their efficiency, thus meeting the expectations of citizens and consumers.

The 2017-2019 Strategic Plan will enable "long-term" reflection to be engaged on the French sanitary and food system to a 2025 horizon and to provide a revised framework and shared meaning for the Directorate's action, as well as communicating these to its partners. Some measures were discussed in the French National Food Conference in the second half of 2017. ■

AN ACTION PLAN FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL RISK PREVENTION IN THE DGAL

The Ministry of Agriculture has asked each of its directorates to carry out a diagnostic analysis of psychosocial risk (PSR) factors and to define an action plan for their prevention.

PSRs impact the entirety of a community. Some individuals may be more vulnerable than others, more sensitive to atmosphere, context or stress. However, suffering in the workplace by even one member of the personnel can affect the whole of the working community.

The relationship we construct with our work has changed substantially over time: the frontier separating work from personal life is now no longer the same. These aspects have contributed to the materialisation of psychosocial risks in recent years.

The project group set up with staff representatives has made use of a rigorous survey carried out in February 2016 across the entire DGAL workforce now in post, generating a 72% response rate. These initial data have been enriched with

a series of confidential interviews conducted by a doctoral student from outside government.

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A NEW ALL-INCLUSIVE, HARMONISED EUROPEAN REGULATION ON OFFICIAL CONTROLS

New European regulation (EU) no. 2017/625 on official controls was published on 7 April 2017. It will come into force on 14 December 2019, replacing current regulation (EC) no. 882/2004. The new regulation gathers together the whole range of provisions with a view to harmonised, coherent organisation of official controls across the various different categories (animal, plant, food products).

The regulation lays down **common rules for all European Union member states** and the European Commission with regard to the organisation and implementation of effective systems of control for guaranteed adherence to regulatory requirements by professionals in the food chain.

It keeps to the broad principles of the current regulation, most notably all obligations relating to training, independence, impartiality and legal competence for control authorities, mandatory execution of internal audits and inspection scheduling based on risk analysis.

The relevant competent French authorities are the DGAL, DGCCRF (the Ministry of the Economy directo-

rate responsible for fraud control), the Directorate General for Health (DGS), the Armed Forces Health Department and the National Institute of Origin and Quality (INAO).

The preparation work for the implementing instruments required for the actual application of the regulation began in the first half of 2017. These notably relate to the practical organisation of import controls, which are pooled across different sectors, meat inspection in slaughterhouses, checks on the presence of residues in foodstuffs, designation of animal welfare centres of reference and plant health reference laboratories, and so on. This work will continue in the lead-up to entry into force in late 2019. ■



Useful links: the Eur-lex website and the European Commission website presentation:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/official_controls/legislation_en

RESYTAL: 2017, A YEAR FOR PREPARATION OF A NEW CYCLE OF TRANSFORMATION

Throughout 2017, the applications in the RESYTAL programme were improved, with 242 registered implementations. Alongside this, a new transformative phase in the information system began with the revision of the 2018-2022 strategic plan for Cycle 2 of RESYTAL. After an initial stage devoted to user management and inspections, this second stage will cover nationwide surveillance and the management of alerts and outbreaks.

The work done in 2017 also led to **major changes in working methods** such as with the application of approval management (permits and certificates) in the areas of food safety and plant protection, as well as in application of the requirement of inspection transparency with the activation of the website and smartphone application “Alim’Confiance”.

This year also led to a **consolidation of user data management and quality**, a focal point for quality of service for all DGAL services.



A mapping module for geolocation of premises enables decentralised departments to accurately reference establishments and their business units, essential information in the event of a crisis, as well as providing all associated industry details.

Trials of **two “prototype” projects** have also been conducted, one for the use of tablet computers for slaughterhouse inspections, the other involving the implementation of mapping software for the management of suspected cases and outbreaks of avian influenza.

Finally, **major operations to consolidate the technical infrastructures** of the historical systems SIGAL and BDNI were undertaken in 2017 and will continue into 2018. These systems, initially

implemented over fifteen years ago, will be shut down on completion of RESYTAL Cycle 2 once all the functions they now fulfil have been overhauled.

In 2017, RESYTAL also involved 259 national and regional training sessions, 212 days’ training and 2,000 staff trained. The highly active network of COSIRs (correspondents in the regions) provides a front-line communication channel and essential support for DRAAF and the DD(CS)PP staff as well as delegated agents such as the FREDONs (regional federations for defence against pests) or GDS (sanitary defence groupings). ■

COMMUNICATION

The mission for promotion of DGAL actions and strategy (MIVAS) highlights programmes led by the Directorate in areas within its remit, sanitary safety and food policy. It disseminates information to a professional audience and to consumers. It is also responsible for communication in the event of a sanitary crisis. It helps highlight the value of the work done by staff both in the central administration and in the outlying departments (DD(CS)PPs and DRAAF/DAAFs). In 2017, communication campaigns were conducted on livestock farms on biosafety, correct use of antimicrobials, rabies prevention and other topics.

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A BIOSAFETY CAMPAIGN ON POULTRY FARMS

Given the seriousness of the two successive episodes of avian influenza in the south-west, the DGAL launched an information campaign to remind all industry professionals of the importance of strict adherence to biosafety measures in order to act collectively to prevent further infections on poultry farms.

This web campaign unfolded between 30 October and 3 December 2017. It was rolled out in trade press media: *Réussir aviculture*, *Filières avicoles*, *La France agricole*... A megabanner was added to the welcome page enabling visitors to link directly to the Alim'Agri website, where further more detailed information was provided. ■



To find out more: <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/biosecurite-les-mesures-pour-tous-les-detenteurs-de-volailles>



ECOANTIBIO, THE RIGHT WAY AT THE RIGHT TIME

The aim of the new campaign "Antibiotics: the right way at the right time" was to sustain the successful mobilisation around the initial Ecoantibio Plan (2012-2016) which had obtained good results.

In the space of five years, the exposure of livestock to antimicrobials has fallen by 37% against an initial target of -25%. It accompanied the implementation of the Ecoantibio² Plan which is intended to ensure that these good results could be maintained over time. The campaign was conducted between 1 September and 31 October and was picked up in the specialist agri-



cultural and veterinary press media as well as on social media.

It was presented by minister Stéphane Travert at the International Exhibition for Animal Production (SPACE) in September 2017. ■



To find out more: <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/campagne-2017-les-antibios-comme-il-faut-quand-il-faut>

THE DGAL IN FIGURES:

INSPECTIONS AND CONTROLS CONDUCTED IN 2017

The DGAL comprises 4,800 full time equivalents (FTEs), plus 14,000 government-approved sanitary veterinarians, 30 national reference laboratories and around 150 specialist test laboratories, the majority attached to territorial *départements*.

IMPORT CONTROLS

Imported products	Number of batches checked	Including rejected batches
Animals and animal products	42 200	354
Plants and plant products	46 000	634
Feed products of non-animal origin	2 400	7
TOTAL	90 600	995

ANNUAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME FOR CONTAMINATION IN PRIMARY PRODUCTION, FOOD AND FEED

The results for the 2017 campaign will be available in the PSPC overview report for 2017 to be published in September 2018.

	Samples taken in 2016	Including samples found to be non-compliant	Sampling scheduled in 2017
TOTAL comprising:	59 949	327	62 000
Physico-chemical contaminants* in animal products	47 786	167	52 000
Biological contaminants** and toxins in animal products	5 699	63	2 600
Residues of plant protection products in primary plant production	1 216	83	1 300
Contaminants in products imported from third countries	1 196	14	3 % of imported batches
Antimicrobial resistance in commensal and zoonotic bacteria	4 052	-	6 300

* Comprising veterinary medicines, banned substances, growth promoters, pesticides, antiparasitics and trace metals.

** Comprising bacteria, organic pollutants (other than pesticides), mycotoxins and phycotoxins.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND PROTECTION INSPECTIONS

Animal protection	Number of inspections	Follow-up procedures	Public health in livestock farming	Number of inspections	Follow-up procedures
TOTAL, comprising:	12 000	660 official notices to remedy	TOTAL, comprising:	19 100	423 official notices to remedy
Farm livestock	5 700		Sanitary inspections on livestock farms	3 400	
Animal transportation	2 000		Biosafety	2 600	
Pets	1 900		Salmonella	8 000	
Equine animals	900		Identification	2 700	
Animal laboratory trials	300		Veterinary pharmacy	1 250	
Slaughterhouses	1 200		Animal by-products	400	
			Animal feed	250	
			Reproduction	230	
			Trade in live animals	270	

PLANT QUALITY, HEALTH AND PROTECTION INSPECTIONS

	Number of inspections	Follow-up procedures	Comprising:	
			Official action	Penalty notices
TOTAL, comprising:	12 500	4 500	4 440	60
Inspections of users of plant protection products*	6 200	2 500		
Inspections at plant protection product distribution stage	550	350		
Inspections verifying observance of hygiene rules	1 650	200		
Checks on issuance of European phytosanitary passports**	4 100	1 450		

FOOD SAFETY INSPECTIONS

	Number of inspections	Follow-up procedures	Comprising:					
			Official warnings	Official notices to remedy	Penalty notices	Permit withdrawal or suspension	Total or partial closure	Other steps **
TOTAL, comprising:	54 000	26 600	19 000	5 800	780	50	670	300
Slaughter*, processing or warehousing facilities	14 000	5 000						
Institutional catering	11 000	5 000						
Commercial catering	18 000	11 000						
Shops	11 000	5 600						

* This figure includes only annual inspections of slaughter facilities where the veterinary services also provide permanent inspection.

** Obligation to provide training, sequestration or destruction of goods, cleaning, product recall, alterations of premises, etc.

PUBLICATION DIRECTOR

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TEXT, DESIGN AND COORDINATION

DGAL actions and strategy promotion unit (MIVAS), working with all teams.

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Studio Agnès Cappadoro

www.studio-agnescappadoro.com

PHOTO CREDITS

Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Pascal Xicluna, Cheick Saidou, Xavier Remongin)

General Directorate for Food – 251, Rue de Vaugirard - 75732 Paris cedex 15

This publication has been printed with plant-based inks on 100 % PEFC paper from responsibly managed forests.

April 2018.

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ALIMENTATION.GOUV.FR