



PLANT QUALITY AND PROTECTION

The french system



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

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



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What does the plant quality and protection involve?

Control health hazards that affect plants, and particularly emerging or regulated harmful organisms

Monitoring the health of plant crops

Controlling inputs, phyto-pharmaceutical products, fertilizers and crop growing supports, genetically modified plants and **monitoring** their environmental

Controlling plant imports and **certifying** export products

Monitoring the health of forests and supporting forestry managers in the field of plant health

Orienting the selection of plant varieties according to expectations and guaranteeing seed health quality

Guaranteeing hygiene at the primary plant production phase



A SYSTEM SERVING ENVIRONMENTALLY AND ECONOMICALLY EFFICIENT AGRICULTURE



→ The **États généraux du sanitaire (EGS[French General Sanitary Summit])**, which took place in 2010, reviewed and clarified the organisation of the different players and optimised the system for managing sanitary risks.

→ The **Ecophyto Plan**, launched in 2010, aims to improve biological monitoring in France. It also aims to promote efficient (reduced) pesticide use among farmers by improving their access to real-time information about the presence of diseases and crop pests, so as to better target their treatments.

→ These initiatives were reasserted by the « **PRODUISONS AUTREMENT** » (Let's produce differently) policy implemented in 2012 by the French Minister of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry (MAAF).

ONE SYSTEM..., MANY PLAYERS

NATIONAL LEVEL

→ **1. Overall management of the system: the French Directorate General for Food (DGAL) within the Ministry in charge of Agriculture, which is the French National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO).**

Its missions : regulate, organise monitoring and control measures, in order to ensure phytosanitary safety throughout the French territory and protect all plant environments (crops, forests, public spaces, natural areas) against emerging or regulated harmful organisms.

→ **1. Advisory body: the French National Committee for the Orientation of the Animal and Plant Health Policy (CNOPSAV) and its regional offices.**

Its role : orient the monitoring and control policies, notably as regards the control against harmful organisms for plants.

Composition : the committee is made up of different stakeholders (trade organisations, administrative offices, scientists, etc.), chaired over by the Minister in charge of Agriculture.

REGIONAL LEVEL

→ **Implementation of sanitary missions assigned by the State: the Sanitary-service Organisations (OVS) recognised by the Minister in charge of Agriculture** such as the FREDONs (French Regional Federations for Defence against Harmful

Organisms), delegates such as FAM, SOC, SOC, CTIFL.

→ **Regional coordination for prevention, monitoring and control: Regional Sanitary Associations (ASR) recognised by the State.**

→ **Prevention, best practices: the professionals.**

→ **Monitoring:**

- regional plant protection departments (DRAAF) or their delegates,
- Chambers of Agriculture,
- technical institutes and laboratories.

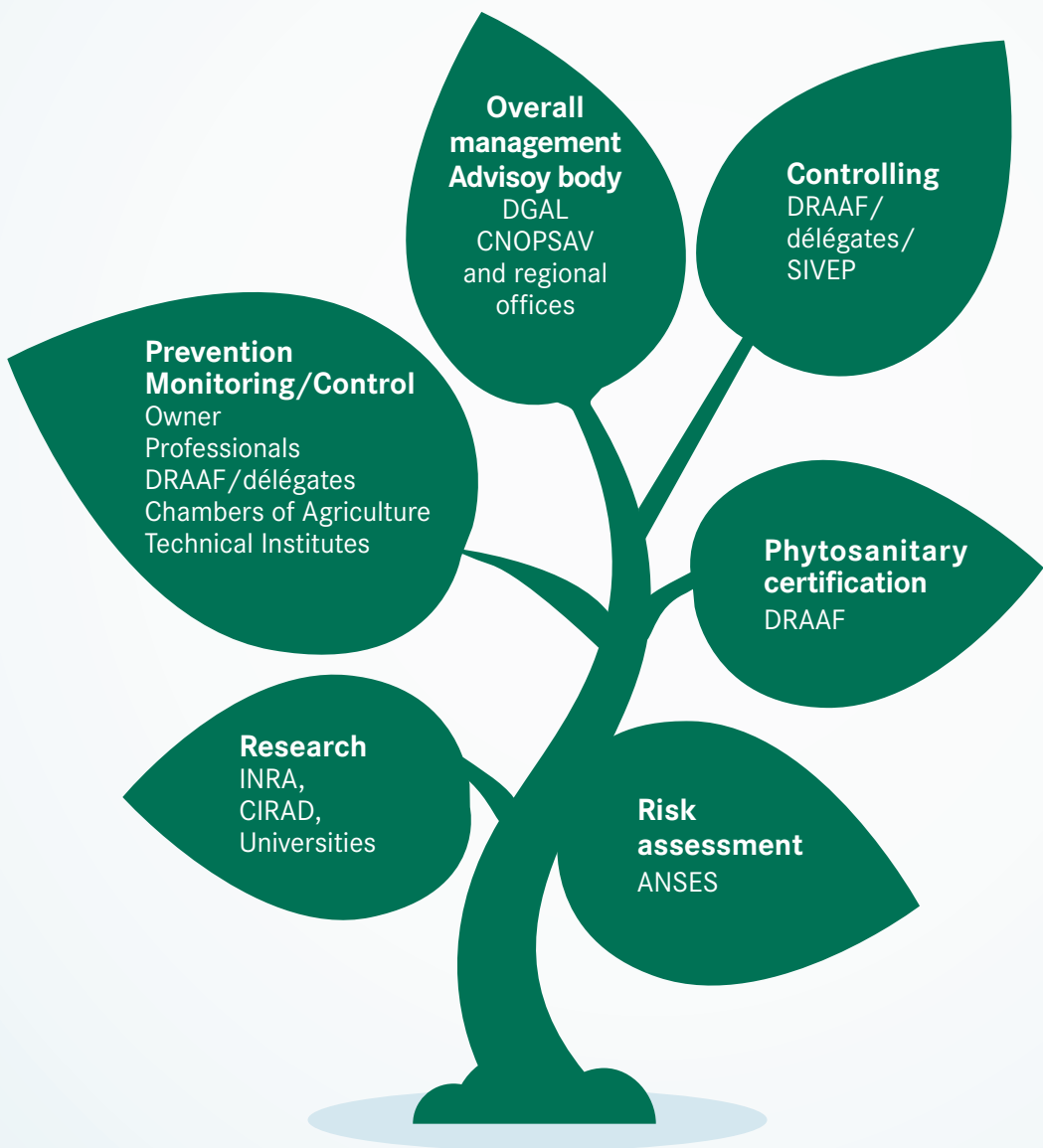
→ **Control measures: plant owners and handlers.**

→ **Official controls: regional plant protection departments (DRAAF, 22 regions in continental France and 5 overseas regions) or their delegates, border inspection posts, known as European Community entry points (PEC) for plants (see map page 14).**

→ **Phytosanitary certification for export: regional plant protection departments (DRAAF).**

→ **Risk assessment: the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES).**

→ **Research: INRA, CIRAD, ANSES, Universities.**



REGULATING

→ Plant health and protection **competences are shared between the European Union and its Member States.**

Regulations in this field are mostly harmonised at European level, essentially through the 2000/29/EC European directive (currently being amended) which sets out the list of **quarantine organisms**. These are organisms that are harmful to plants, and against which the State organises protective measures to prevent their introduction and dissemination across the national territory.

→ The DGAL participates in the drafting of the European regulations, establishes national regulations and monitors their application.

→ The DGAL participates in European and international negotiations to establish the standards for the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) and for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

→ The redesign of the system for controlling phytosanitary risks, further to the EGS, resulted in significant legal and regulatory changes to the French Rural and Maritime Fishing Code in 2011 and 2012.



CONTROLLING, CERTIFYING



**Number
of analysis
for harmful organisms
conducted by Anses (LSV) :
12 000 in 2012
+ 70 000 analysis
conducted by
certified laboratories**

→ Plant production and trade within the European Union

Pursuant to European regulations, the officers of the French government departments (DRAAF) or their delegates (FREDON, GNIS/SOC, CTIFL, FranceAgriMer) carry out **at least one inspection a year** in all production entities and farms (particularly for seeds and plants). They issue the **European plant passport** which guarantees that the plants in movement within the Union are compliant with European phytosanitary regulations.

As such, each year **around 7,000 production facilities and more than 1,200** non-producing retail facilities are controlled; the latter are controlled with varying frequency depending on the plants handled and the related regulatory requirements.

→ Imported plants and plant-based products

The French Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Inspection Service (SIVEP) was created in 2010 within the MAAF. It groups together all the border control posts including the 32 certified "European Community entry points" (PEC) where imported plants and plant-based products are inspected. They must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin.

→ Exported plants and plant-based products

The **phytosanitary certificates** which guarantee that the plants comply with the phytosanitary requirements of the third country concerned are issued by the DRAAFs (regional government departments) and the DAAFs (for French overseas territories).

→ Plant reproductive material (including seed) quality

Pursuant to European regulations, the planting reproductive material (including seeds) of a large number of plant varieties are subject to certification (mandatory or voluntary depending on the case) in order to be sold in the European Union.

This certification is based on controls at production and sales points, taking into consideration several criteria: phytosanitary (absence of non-quarantine harmful organisms), physical (germination capacity, etc.) and identity-based (varietal identity, etc.).

In France, these controls are performed by FranceAgriMer for vine plant reproductive material, by the CTIFL for fruit reproduction material/seeds and by the GNIS/SOC for other seeds and seedlings.

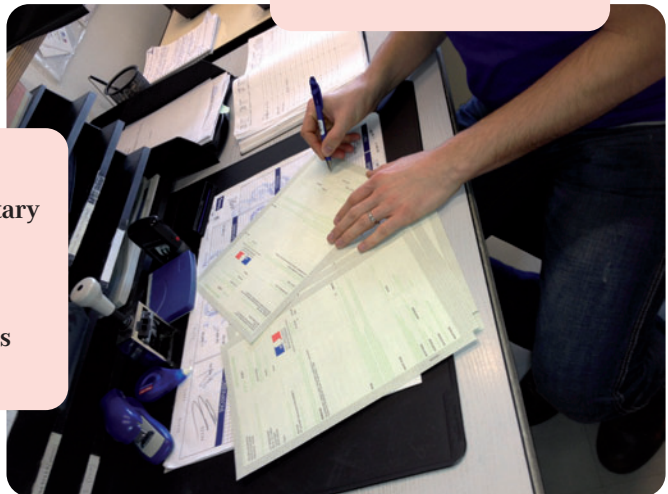
→ Other controls

The DRAAF regional services are also in charge of primary production hygiene controls (386 in 2010, 400 in 2011, 580 in 2012).

They are also responsible for authorising the sale and use of phytosanitary products, fertilizers and crop-growing supports : 6 592 checks of farms and distribution firms in 2012.

**In 2012,
a total of
57,998 batches
were controlled
and 1,029
were refused.**

**77,000 phytosanitary
certificates
were issued
in 2012
by the 22 DRAAFs**



MONITORING, INFORMING

Why monitor?

The biological monitoring of plants and plant-based products on French soil is one of the core missions of the departments under the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture. Monitoring has been conducted for several decades in order to:

- understand **the country's phytosanitary situation**,
- safeguard **the country's status** as regards emerging or regulated organisms in France, the European Union or third countries that import our plant products,
- improve the **reasoning behind control methods** against harmful organisms that affect plant quality,
- **detect and track unintentional effects** potentially linked to farming practices,
- **track the emergence of resistance** to phytopharmaceutical products (400 samples analysed a year).



What monitoring means are deployed?

→ **monitoring plans** implemented by regional government departments (DRAAF) or their delegates (FREDON, an association specialised in plant health). These plans are specifically established for certain sectors or certain priority regulated or emerging harmful organisms, or of interest for export.

→ **an epidemic monitoring network** comprising 13,320 observation plots, and 4,000 observers. Epidemiological data is collected and evaluated through a collegial process involving the different players and is then published in a plant health bulletin. A total of 3000 plant health bulletins are published each year.

→ **a network of 220 correspondents-observers in the field** to monitor **forest health**; in particular, they assess the impacts of climate change and the potential spread of pests and pathogens, with particular attention paid to the risk of harmful organisms being introduced into the national territory and emerging diseases.



CONTROLLING HARMFUL ORGANISMS



→ Any detection or suspected presence of a quarantine organism by a plant owner or handler (or by any person with phytosanitary expertise) must be immediately reported to the government services.

If officially confirmed, the detection is reported by the NPPO to the European Commission, the EPPO and the IPPC, through EPPO.

→ In the event of detection, mandatory control measures can be ordered by the government services in order to ensure eradication or, at least, to prevent any spread of the organism.

→ **Today, harmful organisms are categorised and ranked by priority** according to their phytosanitary, environmental and socio-economic impact, which enables the requisite resources to be deployed if necessary.

→ For the most dangerous and worrying organisms, **emergency plans have been established** in order to prepare all the stakeholders for the implementation of the requisite control measures.

→ **The initial responsibility for the deployment** of mandatory control measures belongs to the plant owner or handler; this is verified by the government services (DRAAF) or their delegates (FREDON).

RISK PREVENTION

→ Professionals in the sector are encouraged and empowered as regards risk prevention initiatives to counter harmful organisms, particularly through the creation of **phytosanitary best-practice guides**.

→ In particular, production facilities (notably nurseries) are encouraged to put in place **phytosanitary control plans** that ensure the implementation of control procedures and internal risk management processes.

→ The **development of biological control methods** is encouraged by ensuring there is no risk to plant health or biodiversity due to the introduction of exotic biological control agents into the environment.

RISK ASSESSMENT: ANSES

ANSES is responsible for assessing risks to plant health and for conducting the phytosanitary risk analyses that guide the decisions taken by the NPPO.

Within Anses, the Plant Health Laboratory (LSV) acts as the national reference laboratory for scientific and technical support.

Its remit covers all disciplines linked to plant health (bacteriology, virology, entomology, mycology, nematology).

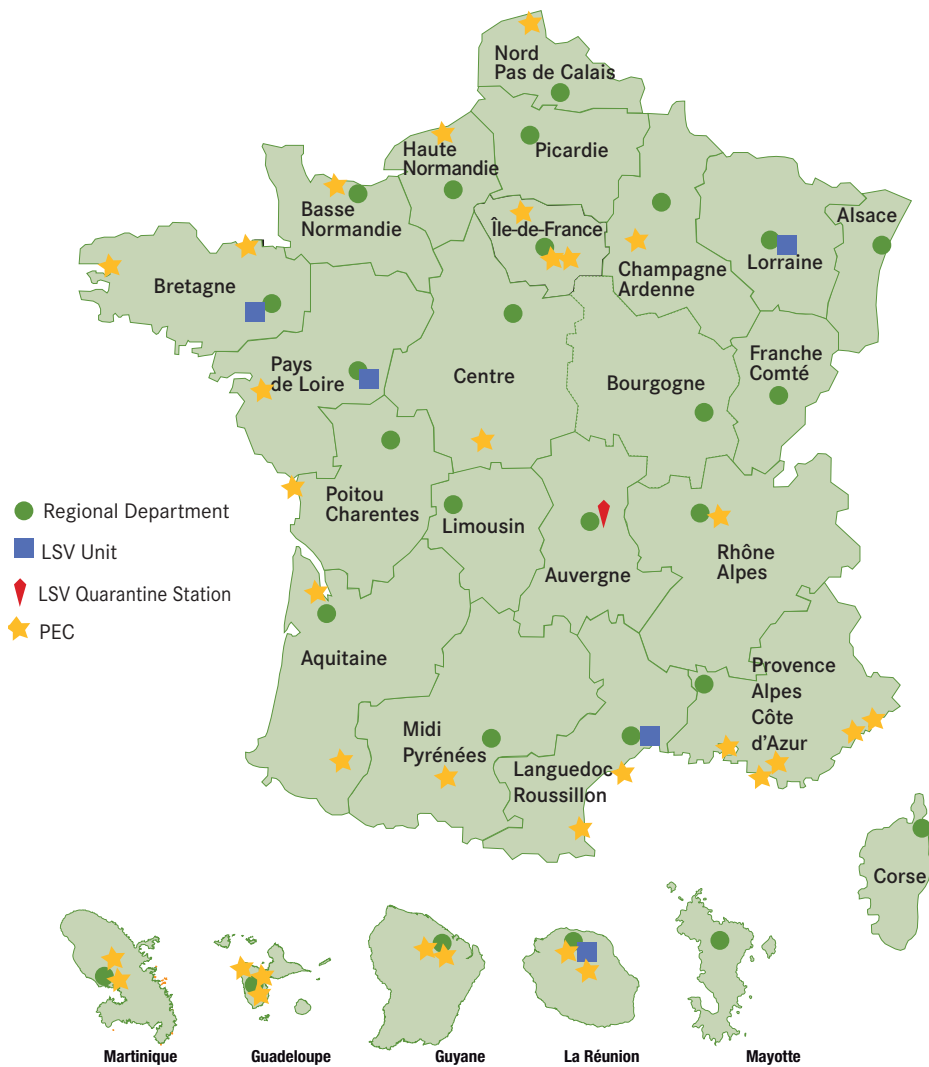
The Plant Health Laboratory (LSV) employs 80 people across 6 sites, including a quarantine station for plant imports to France.

ANSES is also responsible for the detection of genetically modified organisms (GMO), the evaluation of GM seeds, phytopharmaceutical products, fertilizers and crop-growth supports seeking authorisation to be sold in France, and provides expertise concerning invasive plants in cultivated environments.

Number of reports
and expertises
requested
by the MAAF in the plant
health field:
25 in 2012



TERRITORIAL COVERAGE



GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

ANSES : The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety

CIRAD : International Centre for development-oriented Research in Agriculture

CNOPSAV : French National Committee for the Orientation of the Animal and Plant Health Policy

CTIFL : French inter-professional technical centre for fruit and vegetables

DAAF : French Department for Food, Agriculture and Forestry

DGAL : French Directorate General for Food

DRAAF : French Regional Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Forestry

EGS : French General Sanitary Summit

FAM : FranceAgriMer

FREDON : French Regional Federation for Defence against Harmful Organisms

GNIS : French National Inter-professional Group for Seeds and Plants

INRA : French National Institute for Agricultural Research

IPPC : International Plant Protection COntention

LSV : Plant Health Laboratory (ANSES)

EPPO : European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation

NPPO : National Plant Protection Organisation

OVS : French Sanitary-Service Organisations

PEC : European Community entry point

SIVEP : French Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Inspection Service

SOC : French official control and certification department

