Presentation of ANSES - French strategic policy for risk assessment in food safety

French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety

Roma, Ministero della salute, 10th December 2018
ANSES in brief

✓ About 1350 staff
✓ Around 800 external experts solicited
✓ Annual budget: 132 million Euros
✓ More than 13800 Opinions issued since 1999 (AFSSA + AFSSET)
✓ 9 laboratories in 16 locations
✓ 65 National Reference Laboratory mandates, 8 EU-RL mandates, 19 international mandates
✓ 6 million Euros per year to support calls for research projects
ANSES is accountable to five ministries (objectives and performance contract)

Ministry of Ecology & sustainable development
Ministry of Labour
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Consumer affairs

Parliament & National plans
ANSES contributes to ensuring:
- human health and safety in the fields of environment, work and food as well as
- protecting animal health and welfare
- protecting plant health

Recommend public health measures
Conduct laboratory reference missions

- Conduct risk assessment in its fields of competence
- Conduct surveillance, monitoring, alert and vigilance missions
- Conduct, coordinate and initiate research projects
- Provide training and information and contribute to public debate
- Issues marketing authorisations of veterinary medicinal products
- Issues marketing authorisations of plant protection products, fertilisers, growing media, and adjuvants
- Issues marketing authorisations of biocides

Collaborate with European and international agencies (EFSA, ECHA, EMA, EEA, EU-OSHA, and ECDC)
New ANSES missions

- In 2015, implementation of the phytopharmacovigilance scheme (PPV) - monitoring adverse effects of plant protection products

- Since 1 January 2016: coordinating the toxicovigilance system - toxicovigilance activities of the network of poison control centers

- Since 1 July 2016: issuing of marketing authorisations for biocides

- New mission (as part of the Tobacco Products Directive 2014/40/EU)

- Since 1 January 2018, risk assessment and scientific and technical support on vectors
9 laboratories, conducting reference & research activities on food safety, animal health & plant health

Risk assessment through collective expertise involving external experts
Different kinds of groups of experts (includes 18 Expert committees)
Around 350 requests/year
Opinions published on the website

Marketing authorisations for veterinary medicinal products; monitoring & control of veterinary drugs; inspection of the entire sector
Marketing authorisations for plant protection products, fertilisers, growing media and biocides
Reference, research and surveillance

9 laboratories on 16 sites

✓ Conducting reference and research activities on food safety, animal health, and plant health

✓ Contributing to animal health surveillance and expert assessment in food safety, animal health, and plant health

✓ Ensuring a territorial presence of the laboratories & their units which allows them to be close to the field (anticipation & detection of emergencies & health problems)

✓ Maintaining a position in the main regions of production corresponding to the sectors concerned by the reference activities of the laboratories
Core values

Independece, impartiality
A code of conduct and independent committees which stakeholders can solicit, collegial and multidisciplinary scientific panels, prevention of conflicts of interests, public funding, etc.

Transparency
Assessment process, minority opinions, publication of opinions, public declarations of interest, public calls for experts and research projects, etc.

Access to stakeholders
Charter on the openness of expertise to society, contribution of civil society, dialogue committees, etc.

Excellence/scientific expertise
Selection of experts through open calls for applications
Governance

Board of Administration
36 members; 3 years
Appointment by governmental decree

President
Five colleges:
- From public authorities
- From unions and employer organisations
- NGOs
- Professional organisations
- Elected and qualified individuals
- ANSES staff representatives

- Four annual meetings
- Strategic orientations
- Creation of five thematic steering committees (food safety, environmental health, occupational health, animal health & welfare, and plant health)

Director General
3 years
Appointment by governmental decree

- Day-to-day operations
- Implements the orientations given by the Board of administration

Scientific Board
29 scientists; 3 years
Appointment by ministerial decree; 24 members plus
3 ANSES staff representatives
1 Pres. of the InVS Scientific committee
1 Pres. of the ANSM Scientific committee

- Four annual meetings
- Provides scientific orientation & guidance
- Supervises the conditions of independent external expertise:
  - Evaluates applications for the Expert committees and advises on their final membership
  - Reviews public declarations of interest
- Oversees the evaluation of the Agency’s research activities

Committee for ethical standards & prevention of conflicts of interest
8 members; 5 years
Appointment by ministerial decree

Lawyers, philosophers, sociologists, ...

Can be petitioned by a member of the Board of administration, the Scientific Board, the Expert committees, by the Director General, or by ANSES employees

Stakeholders and their expectations

Ethical standards

Scientific excellence and orientations
Who can make requests to ANSES?

Ministries

Approved associations

Trade unions and employers’ associations

Internal requests

Professional associations

State organisations
Risk assessment through collective expertise

**Principles**
(laid down in founding texts)
- “ANSES provides independent and multidisciplinary scientific expertise”
- “ANSES provides expert assessment in its fields of competency through its Expert Committees”

**Objectives**
- Scientific excellence
- Independent and impartial scientific opinions

**Requirements**
- Competence and a multidisciplinary approach
- Comparing viewpoints, collegial debate
- Diverging opinions considered
- Prevention of conflicts of interest
- Code of conduct for Expert Assessment, NFX 50-110 standard, traceability, transparency

**Expert Groups**
- Expert Committees
- Thematic working Groups
- Emergency Collective Assessment Groups
16 permanent ANSES Expert Committees (CES) (October 2017)

- Assessment of risks related to biocidal substances and products
- Assessment of risks related to chemical substances within the framework of the implementation of REACH and CLP regulations
- Plant protection products: chemical substances and preparations
- Micro- and macro-organisms beneficial to plants
- Fertilisers and growing media

- Health reference values
- Assessment of risks related to physical agents, new technologies and development areas
- Assessment of risks related to air environments
- Assessment of chemical risks of consumer items and products

- Water
- Human nutrition
- Assessment of physical and chemical risks in food
- Assessment of biological risks in food

- Feed
- Animal health and welfare

- Biological risks for plant health

Regulated products

Environmental and occupational risks

Water, food and nutritional risks (human)

Animal health & feed

Plant health
Thematic working groups (and CES it reports to)

- **Endocrine disruptors**
- **Tobacco** and vaping products
- **Vigilance on chemical products**
- **Avian influenza**
- **Animal welfare**
- **Biological indicators of exposure**
- **Metrology**
- Assessing the safety of materials and articles used in permanent facilities for the production, treatment and distribution of water intended for human consumption
- Assessment of the health risks related to the chemical parameters of water intended for human consumption
- **Nutrivigilance**
- **Biotechnology**
- Assessment of guides to good hygiene practice (GGHP) and of application of HACCP principles
- Assessment of substances and processes submitted for authorisation in foods
- Analytical methods for food
- **Phytopharmacovigilance**
- CES chemical risks of consumer items and products
- CES Animal health & welfare
- CES health reference values
- CES risks related to air environments
- CES chemical risks of consumer items and products
- CES Water
- CES biological risks in food
- CES physical & chemical risks in food

And numerous non-permanent working groups
Surveillance, alerts, monitoring and vigilance

ANSES is in charge of schemes that produce health alerts:

- **Nutritional vigilance** (health monitoring system for potential adverse effects associated primarily with food supplements or novel foods)
- **Biotox plan** (germs that could be used in the event of biological attacks)
- Pharmacovigilance for **veterinary drugs**
- **Reference laboratory** mandates in food safety and animal health

ANSES coordinates / contributes to activities on health surveillance and alerts that originate outside the agency, for example:

- National Network for Monitoring and Prevention of **Occupational Diseases** (RNV3P)
- National **animal health epidemiological surveillance** platform
- **Toxicovigilance** for regulated products such as plant protection products
- Coordinating the **toxicant monitoring scheme** (toxicovigilance activities of the network of poison control centers) - since January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016
- “**Phytopharmacovigilance (PPV)**” scheme to monitor potential post-authorisation impacts of plant protection products on human health, animal and plant life, and the environment – since July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015

ANSES fulfils its mission also by:

- Setting up **observatories** for products and processes (e.g. Pesticide residues, food quality)
- Maintaining a watch on **international scientific publications** and on trends in the **media and society**
- Participating in European and international **alert networks**
Reference, research and surveillance

Anses main missions:

- Expertise, epidemiosurveillance, alert; scientific and technical support to the ministries
- Development and validation of analytical methods
- Coordination of laboratory networks (France & EU MSs): training, interlaboratory proficiency tests etc.
- Confirmation of results to competent authorities
- Gives support to the certification of laboratories
- Ensures surveillance and epidemiological modelisation
- Threatening biological and chemical agents: knowledge improvement on their identification, pathogenicity, toxicity, their prevention, their prevalence and their spread
Reference and research

✓ 65 national reference mandates
  *(Animal & Plant Health / Food safety)*

✓ 8 EU and 19 international reference mandates
  *(OIE, WHO, FAO)*

✓ National, EU and international partnerships

✓ EU networks *(MedVetNet / Epizone / CoVetLab ...)*

✓ Projects funded through national and EU sources:

  40 on-going EU-funded research projects
  *(Horizon 2020, COST, EFSA ...)*
Risk assessment strategic policy 2019-2021

General context

• New consumption trends
• Fake news
• Great expectations towards safety but also quality and sustainability « States General July 2017 »
• Accessibility and socioeconomical discrepancies
• Symbolic aspects and ethical perspectives
Mitigating hazards to reinforce food safety

• Documenting hazards: WGS/ high throughput
• Structuring epidemiology and surveillance: new multistakeholders platform, source-attribution, data quality
• Documenting exposure and risks: TDS (µbio?), AMR and food
• Ranking hazards and sensitive foods
Monitoring the food offer and nutritional risks for a healthy food

• Documenting food composition and food offer (quality): OQALI observatory and CIQUAL tables
• Documenting behaviours and cultural drivers
• Documenting intakes and inadequation: towards dietary recommendations « Programme national nutrition-santé »
Anticipating emerging risks and building the future of RA methodology

• Constantly improving methodologies:
  Chemical mixtures, ED, biomonitoring, cinetic models (PBTK), drivers for exposure, multipathogens approach, uncertainties-weight of evidence, specific populations

• Identifying and describing new risk factors/drivers
  Overseas territories, new consumers’ groups (veggie, « without »…), New trends (crude, after « best before » dates…), new niches (organic…)

• Vigilances and emerging risks

• Towards integrative approaches: « safety, health, sustainability »
Maintaining strong international and European cooperation

**International organisations**
- **FAO** - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- **WHO** - World Health Organisation
- **Codex Alimentarius** - International food standards
- **OECD** - Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- **ISO** - International Standards Organisation
- **IPPC** - International plant protection convention

**Non-EU national organisations**
- **OIE** - World Organisation for Animal Health

**Expert assessment, reference, research, surveillance, cooperation, training, etc.**
- **Assessment bodies in other countries**
- **Research and reference bodies in other countries**

**International mandates**
- **OECD**
- **ISO**
ANSES main partners

- International organisations

- EU agencies & institutions

- National counterparts - risk assessment / research bodies

- Networks
Thank you for your attention

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