

“With ANSES, France has mobilised cross-cutting multidisciplinary resources to enable global understanding of risks, in order to protect the public on a daily basis while keeping one step ahead of the risks of tomorrow.”

Created on 1 July 2010, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) is a scientific body active in the fields of food safety, occupational and environmental health, animal health and well-being, and plant health. ANSES’s core activity is to conduct independent and pluralistic expert assessments in order to evaluate health risks and provide the competent authorities with all the necessary measures to preserve public health.

ANSES is a public authority reporting to the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, the Environment, Labour and Consumer Affairs. To carry out its missions, it has a Board of Administration and five thematic steering committees made up of representatives of civil society. It also relies on a Scientific Board that ensures the quality and independence of its expert assessment work.

Through its surveillance, expert appraisal, research and reference activities, ANSES fully addresses all the risks (microbiological, physical and chemical) to which a person may be exposed, intentionally or otherwise, at all stages of life, whether in the workplace, while travelling, during leisure time, or through diet. Its work is based on the implementation of independent and pluralistic scientific expert assessment by expert groups made up of external scientists and incorporates the socio-economic aspects of risk.

As an acknowledged reference in the areas of food safety, animal health and welfare, and plant, environmental and occupational health, ANSES is involved in numerous partnerships and various national, European and international research programmes.

ANSES is the leading health and safety agency in Europe with regard to the scope of its missions.

Key ANSES figures

800
external experts
solicited through its
scientific panels

1,350 staff

over 13,800 opinions
issued since 1999

Approximately
250 scientific
publications
per year

65
national reference
laboratory mandates

11 laboratories
throughout France

French Agency
for Food,
Environmental
and Occupational
Health & Safety

Find out more about ANSES and follow all of
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Assess risks and enable informed public health measures

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) is an independent scientific body whose main role is to assess health risks in order to enable the public authorities to make informed decisions. It executes its missions in close cooperation with its European and international counterparts.

Informing public authorities

ANSES's core activity is the assessment of health risks in order to enable the public authorities to make informed decisions. It ensures constant vigilance in a large field of expertise covering human health, animal health and well-being and plant health. ANSES evaluates all the risks that individuals may be exposed to on a daily basis, in the workplace, while travelling, while engaging in leisure activities or via food. The Agency also has authority in the veterinary drug field and it evaluates applications for the marketing of pesticides and biocides, in addition to chemicals, within the framework of the European REACh regulation.

Excellence, independence and transparency

ANSES undertakes multidisciplinary scientific expert assessment while encouraging independent debate. It calls on scientists of all fields and origins. It invites discussion with various stakeholders while sharing its information freely, cooperating with associations, the scientific community, local and regional authorities and manufacturers, among others. By systematically publishing the results of its research on its website, it helps to keep the society as a whole informed.

Networking

ANSES maintains close relationships with many French, European and international organisations. As an active member of the network of European agencies it is also involved in a number of international bodies. It holds 26 European and international reference laboratory mandates (World Health Organization, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health). In France, ANSES leads and coordinates a network of 31 scientific organisations, including health agencies, institutes and research laboratories.

Reaching out to civil society

From the beginning, ANSES's goal has always been to provide benchmark scientific information to the public and stakeholders in order to serve as a point of reference in public debate. It therefore strives, through the implementation of various venues for discussion and communications tools, to promote understanding and assimilation of its public health recommendations. In keeping with this, the Agency ensures the committed involvement of stakeholders (associations, NGOs, social partners and professional organisations), who are members of its Board of Administration and of five thematic steering committees which are involved in the establishment of guidelines and the drafting of the Agency's work programme. These stakeholders can request an assessment by ANSES on issues in their fields of expertise. ANSES, along with other scientific partners, has also drafted and adopted a "Charter for openness to society" that includes several commitments for promoting dialogue with society.

French Agency for Veterinary Medicinal Products (ANMV)

ANSES supervises the marketing of veterinary drugs through the French Agency for Veterinary Medicinal Products, located in Fougères. This gives it authority over the whole food chain.

The ANMV is in charge of the scientific assessment of veterinary drugs, as well as for their marketing authorisation and for monitoring them.

Undertake collective and independent scientific expertise

ANSES is active in the fields of occupational and environmental health and safety, food safety, animal health and well-being and plant health. It conducts standard-setting scientific expert assessment that is collective, multidisciplinary and independent, and that helps to ensure the health and safety of the general public, workers and consumers.

Improving risk assessment and control

In order to provide recommendations for public health measures, ANSES mobilises scientific expert assessment that is independent, multidisciplinary, collective and adversarial. This is done with the support of twenty specialised scientific panels and by drawing on the human and social sciences for its scientific expert assessments. Close to 800 external experts from many fields work for ANSES, including doctors, veterinarians, pharmacists, chemists, biologists, toxicologists, sociologists, statisticians, nutritionists and environmental engineers, among others. Each expert makes a public declaration of interests which is published. A Committee for ethical standards and prevention of conflicts of interest, fully independent from ANSES management, has been set up to prevent any conflicts of interest and to settle any possible disputes.

A cross-cutting perspective on health risks

- **In the food chain:** ANSES assesses the health risks and nutritional characteristics for the whole of the food sector, from farm to fork, by relying principally on its own laboratory expertise. The Agency also monitors food consumption patterns and identifies those populations which are the most exposed to hazards by conducting field surveys. Lastly, it assesses the safety and quality of drinking water.

- **In the environment:** ANSES assesses the impact of the environment on human health in order to identify any health risks related to pollution of living environments (air, water and soil). It covers several topics: cancer and the environment, exposure to biological, chemical and physical agents, regulations on the use of hazardous chemicals, etc.

- **In the workplace:** exposure to occupational diseases and to the long-term risks related to chemical substances is fast becoming a major concern. ANSES investigates exposure mechanisms in the workplace and the specific health risks affecting various professions by means of innovative methods and tools, such as the National Network for Monitoring and Prevention of Occupational Diseases (RNV3P), which also help define vigilance strategies.

ANSES observatories and databases

> **Oqali**, the nutritional section of the Food Observatory, which provides general monitoring of available foods by objectively measuring changes in nutritional quality. It is implemented jointly by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and ANSES. Oqali publishes the Ciqual table which shows the nutritional make-up of foods (carbohydrates, proteins, fats and fatty acids, vitamins, minerals, etc.) as well as the energy values of over 1,500 foods.

> **The Pesticide Residues Observatory (ORP)**, which enables information on pesticides in various environments to be gathered, analysed and published, and takes into account plant protection products, biocides and external antiparasitic treatments for human and veterinary use.

> **The RNV3P network**, which manages a national database on occupational diseases (patient demographics data, diseases, exposures, job sectors and professions). The data collected are used to produce knowledge and for surveillance (detection of new, unusual or serious events) and prevention of occupational diseases.

Improve knowledge to protect human, animal and plant health

The Agency has a network of 11 reference and research laboratories distributed throughout France, in close proximity to the sectors involved. These laboratories conduct their activities in three major areas: animal health and well-being, food safety (chemical and biological) and plant health.

Qualifying hazards

The Agency's laboratories are acknowledged around the world for their work in various fields and disciplines: epidemiology, bacteriology, antimicrobial resistance, virology, parasitology, mycology, toxins, physical and chemical contaminants, animal welfare, etc. Their missions include expert assessment, epidemiological surveillance, warning notification and scientific and technical advice. By collecting the data provided by the network of accredited laboratories, they play an essential role in the qualification of hazards.

Implementing reference activities

The ANSES laboratories hold 65 national reference laboratory mandates (NRL) and more than 20 mandates at the European (EURL) and international levels, including reference laboratories and collaborating centres for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). These reference mandates acknowledge the ability of our laboratories to develop new methods of diagnosis and analysis and also to validate and transfer them to all accredited laboratories to ensure that health inspections throughout France are performed under controlled and uniform conditions.

Our laboratories also develop epidemiological surveillance systems and cooperate in investigations following outbreaks of epidemics in Europe and around the world.

Developing and funding research, training tomorrow's stakeholders

ANSES undertakes research projects and offers training sessions in its laboratories in the fields of animal health and food safety as part of its scientific and technical support mission for public authorities. It also heads a national research programme for Occupational and Environmental Health, for which it issues each year a call for research projects specifically targeting risk assessment.

ANSES laboratories

Plant Health (Angers), Equine Diseases (Dozulé), Veterinary Medicinal Products and Disinfectants (Fougères), Animal Health, Resistance to Antimicrobials, Food Hygiene and Plant Health (Lyon), Hydrology (Nancy), Rabies and Wildlife (Nancy), Animal Health (Maisons-Alfort), Food Safety (Maisons-Alfort, Boulogne-sur-Mer for Fishery and Aquaculture Products), Poultry, Pig and Fish Farming (Ploufragan-Plouzané), Goat Diseases (Niort), Ruminant and Bee Diseases (Sophia-Antipolis).