

Implementation of the French platform for epidemiological surveillance in animal health

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One key initiative of the national consultation on the animal health sector held from January to April 2010 in France was ‘Creating an epidemiological surveillance platform for animal health surveillance’ (the Platform). The platform aims at improving coordination, fostering and capacity building in epidemiological surveillance activities in animal health. It comprises a National committee for epidemiological animal health surveillance and an operational body. The platform joins together various entities, including the Directorate General for Food of the Ministry of agriculture (DGAl), the independent assessment body (Anses), producers organisations (GDS France, Coop de France), veterinary association (SNGTV), laboratories (ADILVA) and will progressively include technical and scientific organisations (INRA, CIRAD, ONCFS, etc.). The platform assists the production of epidemiological data needed to provide risk evaluation and to enable risk management and control. Its mission is to ensure the smooth running of epidemiological surveillance systems at a national level including their capacity for quick response. The activities implemented by the platform include: (1) contributing to the collection, standardisation and consolidation of health data and to the production of epidemiological reports; (2) development of performance indicators; (3) information feedback; Several subjects are handled as top priorities by the Platform, including the surveillance of bovine tuberculosis, bluetongue, abortions in ruminants, avian influenza, influenza in swine, honeybee diseases, molluscs mortality.