



# CGAAER

CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL  
DE L'ALIMENTATION  
DE L'AGRICULTURE  
ET DES ESPACES RURAUX

The Conseil général de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et des espaces ruraux (High Council for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas – CGAAER) is a high level advisory body under the direct authority of the Minister in charge of Agriculture.

The members of the CGAAER are senior experts from different backgrounds in the public sector who contribute to the elaboration and assessment of public policies within the remit of the Ministry of Agriculture.

It carries out audits, assessments and inspections and provides expertise and advice on strategic issues such as agro-ecology, adapting to climate change, sanitary or market crisis management, international cooperation...It may also be involved in the process of drafting new legislation.



The Minister for Agriculture chairs the CGAAER which is managed by the vice-chairman. Members of the CGAAER are senior officials from different backgrounds (agronomy, forestry, veterinary public health, agro-economy, public administration...).

**The CGAAER is divided into the following 7 “sections”.**

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### Audits and inspections

The CGAAER performs internal audits of the Ministry of Agriculture and inspections of its central or local services. It administers the CMAI (Ministerial Committee for Internal Audit).

→ **Exemple. Food safety crisis management: a review of internal control audit missions.** Management of food safety alerts needs to rely on a system providing rapid and effective response. For risks related to goods of animal origin, the CGAAER conducted audit missions on internal control procedures at the Mission for Sanitary Emergencies, part of the General Directorate for Food (DGAI) and in 6 competent services at local (“départemental”) level. The existing system was reviewed and considered to be robust and liable at both levels. ↵

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### Economy and value chains in farm, forest and agri-food business sectors

Common agricultural policy, agriculture and linked industries, farms, biomass, non-food use of agricultural raw materials, tropical agriculture.

→ **Exemple. Mission on the sugar beet sector in France, in the context of the ending of European quotas.** The CGAAER contributed its expertise to an advice and support mission to help the sugar beet sector to prepare for the ending of sugar quotas, scheduled for October 2017. The report, produced in close cooperation with professional representatives, made 44 recommendations. It was widely distributed, thus enabling the professionals to use it as a basis for working groups in which representatives of the French Ministry were involved. ↵

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### Food, plant and animal health, public health

Food policies, food safety and quality, animal health and welfare, zoonosis prevention, plant and environmental protection.

→ **Exemple. Use of pest protection products for plants: a review of mission reports.** This subject includes economic, environmental and health issues. The review points out a need for better coordination between ministries. Thanks to the new monitoring system set up by the “agriculture for the future” law, new synergies between ministries are expected to occur. ↵

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## Forests, water and land usage

Forests and timber, water, links between agriculture and natural milieux and biodiversity, management and development of rural areas, natural risks.

→ **Example. Possible contributions of agriculture and forestry to the fight against climate change.** The CGAAER report contributed to the building of the EU position as stated during the COP21 discussions held in Paris in December 2015. The report was also used in the preparation of an international research program: “4 per thousand”, which aims to increase the percentage of organic materials in soils. ←

## Research, Training and Jobs

Research and higher education, innovation and development, jobs and social protection, vocational education in farming, job evolution and transformation of teaching methods.

→ **Example. A mission on continuous education for farm managers.** Funding for continuous education for farmers more than doubled between 2008 and 2014, as did their mandatory contributions (for this purpose). The mission analysed these changes, recognized the effectiveness of the use of funds and proposed two objectives: to increase the numbers of farmers enrolling for training courses, and to focus on strategic management of farms, innovative production systems and better marketing. ←

## Public management and State reform

Public governance, administrative organisation, modernisation, optimisation of resources and performance, administrative simplification.

→ **Example.** The CGAAER produced a number of reports on subcontracting certain missions to some specific ministerial operators. An internal working group has been charged with improving and clarifying the main conditions of subcontracting and has been asked to produce a guide for decision making and the supervising of subcontractors. ←

## Prospective, Society, International

Prospectives, studies, assessment, climate change, science and technology for society, international affairs.

→ **Example. An evaluation mission on a development policy for agriculture.** The CGAAER made an assessment of the French policy for agricultural development with the idea of a new orientation to help a move towards “multi-efficient agriculture”, through changes in production systems and working habits. The report proposes three scenarios for a progressive transformation of the orientation, management and means of agricultural development. ←

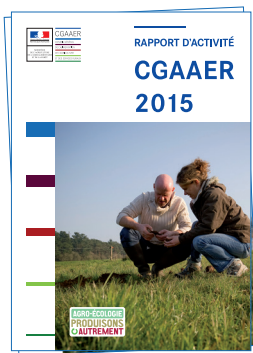


In response to requests from the Minister for Agriculture or from others Ministers in the case of inter-ministerial missions, the members of the CGAAER, individually or in teams, carry out audits, inspections and assessments and provide expertise and advice.

The CGAAER activities are scheduled in an annual program which is validated by the Minister. During the year additional/urgent missions may be organized if the need arises: market or sanitary crises, international policy...

A written report concludes each assignment. Reports are usually published on the Ministry website. The CGAAER produced an average of **250 reports per year**, for an annual flow of about **500 missions**.

The CGAAER edits an **annual report** of its activities and publishes a **monthly information letter: La lettre du CGAAER**.



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