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alimentation, environnement, travail



A decade of experience as a National Reference Laboratory in France

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Establishing NRL and network of approved laboratories

- **NRL and network of approved laboratories pre-existed in other field (animal health, food analysis)**
- **Establishment of a network of approved labs from 2007**
 - Rules for call, application and selection written in law (largely covering EU rule 882/2004)
- **Nomination of a National Reference Laboratory to manage the network (technical aspects)**

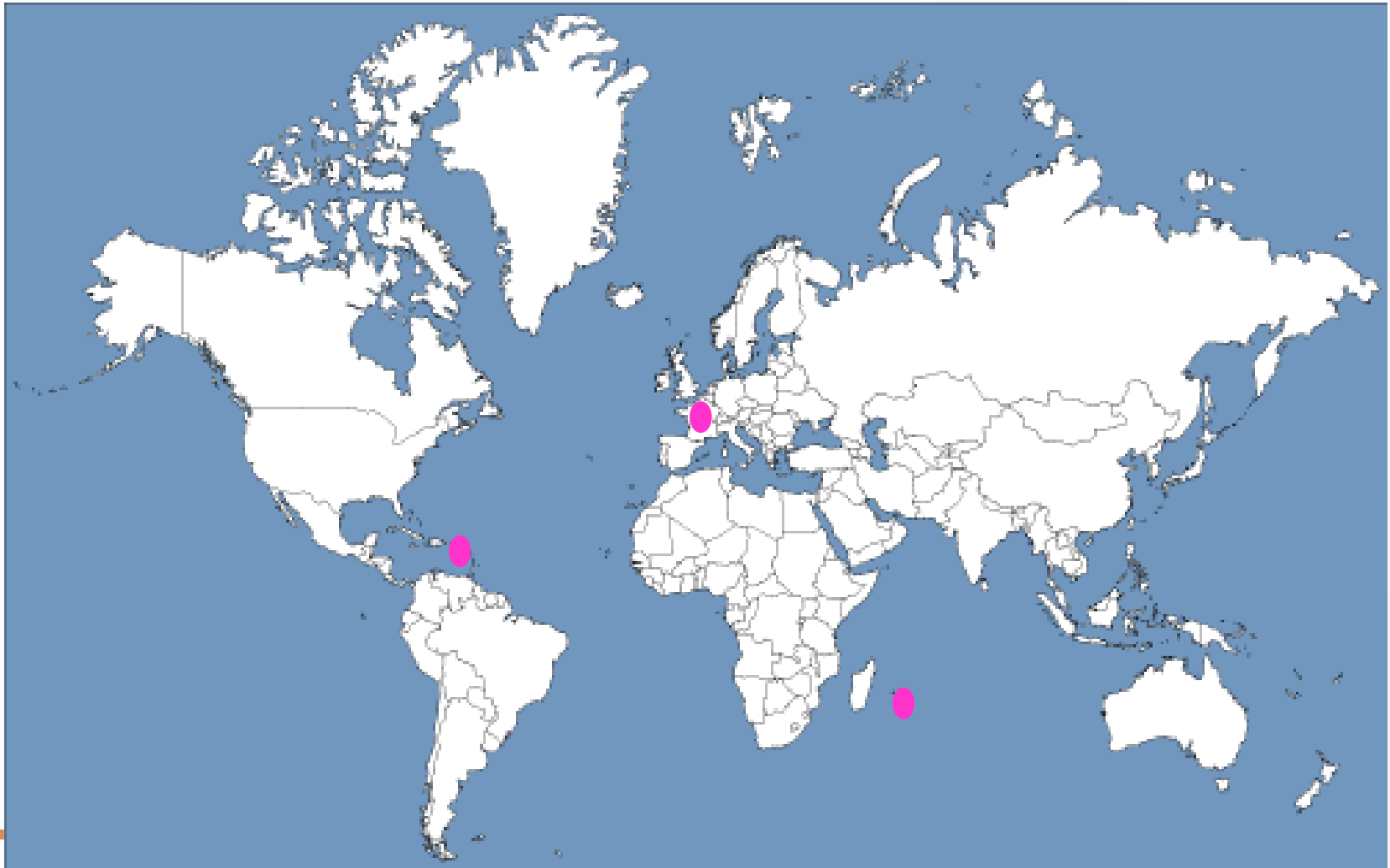
Establishing NRL and network of approved laboratories

- **Establishment of a National Reference Laboratory in Plant Health**
 - Plant health laboratory designated as national reference laboratory for plant health (oct. 2011)
 - responsible for the reliability of official analysis at national level
 - in charge of early detection of new pests / scientific review
 - provide expertise to the Authorities (development of surveys, urgency plans...)

Current situation in France

Current situation in France

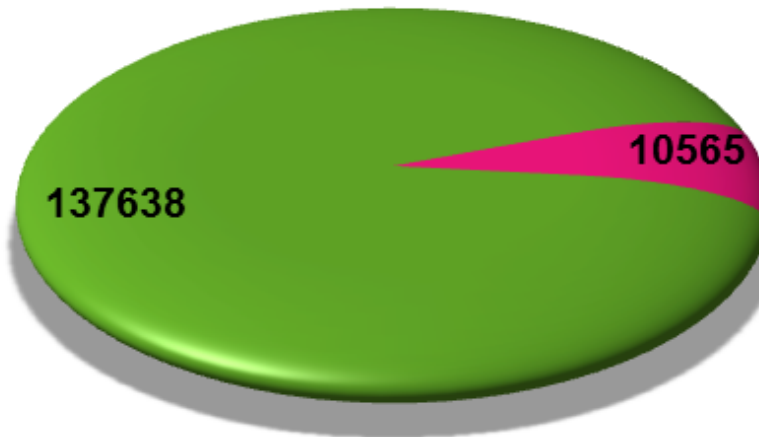
- A network of 20 approved laboratories
- 1 National Reference Lab for plant health
- Approx 60 analysis delegated to approved labs



Current situation in France

- Major contribution of approved labs to official analysis

Official analysis: samples number in 2014 -
breakdown between NRL and approved labs



■ NRL

■ Approved labs

Current situation in France

Activities of NRL as network coordinator:

- Development and writing of national official methods
- Training for new methods (e.g. *Xylella fastidiosa* next week)
- Organizing proficiency test to assess the competence of official labs (10-15 PT per year)
- Providing technical assistance to approved labs (e.g. difficulty with batch of reagents)
- Providing reference material when not commercially available
- Keeping the network constantly active and reliable (annual meeting to share information)

Current situation in France

Activities of NRL as reference for the national authority:

- Development of internal methods for Q pests
- Training of control services
- Reporting to national authority on the work of the network of official labs
- Supporting the Authorities for delegation call, update of data related to approved laboratories ...
- Assisting national authority in the framework of the mandat of NRL
- Representing the national authority in some instances (e.g. EPPO panels)

Challenges and difficulties

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One major topic on reagents:

- How to ensure that reagents will be provided at constant quality?
- How to ensure that change of policy of suppliers will not impact the ability to run analysis?
- Which process to call interest of suppliers for evaluation of their reagents (legal issue)? What is the best scale (national, EU, European level)?

Challenges and difficulties

One major topic on reference material and controls:

- Need for use for routine analysis, but also to check facilities for confinement of Q pests (treatments of waste, water).
- Very demanding activity, how to perform it without excessive commitment of resources?
- Is there any network of NRL to build to fill in this gap?

Challenges and difficulties

Another topic: maintaining the level of activity for approved labs

- Approved labs are acting as private company, they need a minimum activity to cover their costs.
- The programme of analysis is changing without enough anticipation

Not really the task of the NRL, but has impact on the network of labs