

# DEPE

Directorate for collective scientific assessment,  
foresight and advanced studies



## PROVIDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

INRAE's collective scientific assessments, foresights and advanced studies have been carried out since the late 1990s. They inform public policy, contribute to public debate, reveal the scientific horizons to be explored and the points of controversy in INRAE's areas of expertise, agriculture, food and the environment.

## THREE TYPES OF PROJECTS

### Collective scientific assessment

Collective scientific assessments (CSA) establish the state of scientific knowledge certified by peers on a given subject, in response to a request from public authorities. They mobilize an interdisciplinary approach to identify achievements, controversies and gaps in scientific knowledge.

### Advanced study

Advanced studies respond to more targeted questions from public authorities than CSAs and aim to provide more directly operational answers. They mobilize additional data from grey literature (reports, technical journal articles, regulations, etc.), or from simulation models.

### Foresight

Foresights explore possible futures in order to inform present action. They build future visions of the system under study to define its possible evolutions. They are based on the elaboration of different scenarios, founded on methods for investigating evolutionary conjectures and on available scientific knowledge. They mobilize trans-disciplinary knowledge and expertise drawn from the experience of the players involved.



18-24 months

## MONITORING

- **Experts committees.** Researchers and professor-researchers identified within public organizations following the main principles of expertise: competence, plurality of disciplines and approaches, impartiality and transparency. They carry out the project and work in complete independence.

- **Public Authorities at the origin of the request.** Together with the INRAE scientific departments concerned, they take part in monitoring the project's progress within a monitoring committee.

- **Stakeholders.** They are informed and can express their views on the project in the ESCo and studies through a consultative committee of stakeholders consulted on several occasions during the operation, or participate in the elaboration of scenarios in the prospective studies.

- **Partners.** The DEPE has occasionally worked jointly with other French research organizations such as Cirad, CNRS, IFFSTAR or Ifremer.

- **Conclusions.** The projects result in a summary of available scientific knowledge or scenarios from which proposals for action to be taken by the public authorities and research needs for future programmes can be defined.



## DISCUSSING WITH SOCIETY AS A WHOLE

Each project generates a several-hundred-page scientific report for an informed public, a one-hundred-page summary published by QUAE for a more general audience, and a ten-page summary for the general public. The results are discussed at a symposium attended by hundreds of participants, including scientists, public authorities, industry players, associations, local authorities and members of parliament. Each operation is followed by technical and scientific articles, presentations at scientific, association or professional events, hearings by public authorities, etc.

### Examples of recent works and their sponsors:

- ESCo on the quality of food of animal origin (2020) French Ministry of Agriculture and FranceAgriMer
- Advanced study 4 pour 1000 on carbon storage in cultivated soils (2019) French ministries of Agriculture and the Environment and ADEME
- Foresight Pesticide-free European agriculture in 2050 (2023) programme prioritaire de recherche Cultiver et protéger autrement

Territory Water  
Carbon Environment Food  
Farming system Climat  
Agriculture Pesticide  
Forests Soil Agricultural policy  
Plant Food safety Digital Biodiversity  
Sector Breeding

INRAE Centre siège  
147 rue de l'Université  
75007 Paris  
depe-contact@inrae.fr

