Hi,
checking mdt/MdtDigi/PndMdtDigiProducer.cxx, I am using gGeoManager inside the Init and
everything is fine.
Have you added before your gGeoManager the following calls?

 FairRun* sim = FairRun::Instance();
 FairRuntimeDb* rtdb=sim->GetRuntimeDb();

In theory this should load the params and also the geometry.
(or maybe I have not well understood the problem).