

## Summary and Recommendations on Biosecurity and Border Control for 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of GFTADs SGE-ASF for Asia

### **Introduction**

Biosecurity (FAO/OIE/World Bank, 2008 – Good Practices for Biosecurity in the Pig Sector)

“The implementation of measures that reduce the risk (1) of the introduction and (2) spread of disease agents; it requires the adoption of a set of attitudes and behaviours by people to reduce risk in all activities involving domestic, captive/exotic and wild animals and their products”. Basic principles of biosecurity at the farm level include segregation, cleaning and disinfection.

A biosecurity plan (OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code) means a plan that identifies potential pathways for the introduction and spread of disease into a country, zone, compartment or farm, and describes the measures which are being or will be applied to mitigate the disease risks, if applicable, in accordance with the recommendations in the OIE Terrestrial Code.

### **Biosecurity**

- Biosecurity is of crucial importance to both commercial and small holder pig production for preventing entry and allowing effective control of spread of African swine fever virus.
- Biosecurity needs to be applied along the whole pig production chain including facilities, infrastructure, procedures and management to stop introduction and spread of disease and needs to be tailor made for the local situation.
- Farms with low biosecurity are at a high risk of ASF virus introduction. Where there is low consideration given to biosecurity, quarantine and disinfection at any part of the chain, there is a high risk for spreading ASF virus rapidly and over long distances.
- The Competent Authority should provide education, training and technical guidance in order to ensure full implementation of biosecurity measures. The Competent Authority should supervise implementation of biosecurity measures.
- Biosecurity measures are the mainstay for preventing ASF virus from entering farms and controlling its spread and currently there is no vaccine for ASF virus.
- Feeding of swill can be a major source for introducing and spreading ASF virus. Awareness among farmers and other stakeholders on such risk needs to be raised to induce behaviour change.
- Banning of swill feeding should be considered where it can be enforced, which will significantly reduce the risk of introducing ASF into farms.

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- In situations where a total ban of swill feeding is not implementable, strategies should be employed to reduce risk, including appropriately heat-treating swill, based on OIE standards<sup>1</sup> and regulated by Veterinary Authorities.
- Safe and effective cleaning and disinfection strategies are required, including appropriate choice of disinfectants. The application method should be science-based (i.e. OIE international Standards). The disinfectant concentration, contact time, pH, etc and the nature of the surface to be disinfected also needs to be considered. Specific precautions should be taken in case of freezing temperatures.
- European experience with ASF clearly indicates that wild boar play a significant role in local spread and maintenance of swine diseases. Pig holdings should implement measures now to avoid contact between wild boars and domestic pigs. Physical separation by installing fencing around a farm is strongly recommended whether or not pigs are kept outdoors.

### **Border Control**

- Border control is a shared responsibility.
- Awareness campaigns targeted for international travellers to include tourists, workers (incl. farm workers and domestic helpers) and transporters should be organized. It is critical that every traveller in every country understands, prior to departure that carrying prohibited items can spread TADs and will be subject to penalties. Clear messages to declare all animal/plant products OR not carry them in or out of a country at all. Use of multiple communication channels such as airline companies, travel agencies, SNS and embassies/consulates should be considered to reach target populations effectively.
- Cooperation with border security agencies such as customs and immigration to confiscate uncertified pig products at exit and entry points will help change the behaviours of travellers in carrying pig products in their personal luggage.
- Risk of spread of disease by international mail and courier services should be addressed at national and international level though multisectoral cooperation. All animal/plant products should be properly certified by the national authorities prior to any transport.
- National border control measures should be tightened in order to prevent illegal importation. Information on border control activities should be shared with other countries in the region to facilitate cooperation.
- Engaging with local communities along the borders is important to understand the risk of transboundary movement of animals and products and their potential role in risk mitigation.

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 15.1 Article 15.1.22 [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre\\_asf.htm](http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_asf.htm)