



Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever for Asia

Introduction

The situation of African swine fever (ASF) has become of increasing concern globally. The virus has continued to spread in Europe. With the first outbreak confirmed in China in August 2018 the recognised threat became reality for Asia. The ASF virus presents several challenges to control and eradicate with absence of effective and safe vaccine, high resistance and persistence in the environment, carcasses and uncooked pig products. There are additional unique challenges for dealing with the disease in Asia where there is a high density of pigs, complex value chains and many other high impact endemic swine diseases. There is a need for experts with an understanding of ASF virus and knowledge of the swine industry and swine disease situation in Asia to work together with infected and at-risk countries to share information and develop strategies that will lead to greater understanding of how to control and minimise the impact of ASF in Asia and contribute at a global level for better understanding of the disease. A standing group of experts on ASF for Asia is being formed under the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) umbrella to promote regular exchange of information and best-practices among risk managers and international and national experts.

Objective

Strengthening regional cooperation and regional dialogue on ASF control through:

- Regular exchange of information on the ASF situation and control measures applied to support national risk assessments;
- Regular review of national, regional and global control strategies by international experts based on their experience and best practice, with a view to coordinate disease control policies and building a coordinated science- based regional control strategy;
- Collaboration on laboratory diagnostics by exchange of best practices and capacity building;
- Collaboration in basic research;
- Collaboration on awareness raising campaigns by exchange best practices and communication tools;
- Collaboration on border control measures among countries in the region;
- Regular communication on the outcomes of the group discussion to other countries in East Asia and South East Asia and the general public.

Terms of Reference

- The Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever (SGE-ASF) for Asia will be established under the umbrella of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific;
- The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (OIE RR Tokyo) will act as Technical Secretariat in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP);
- The founding members; PR China, Japan and RO Korea will establish the SGE-ASF Asia. Experts from other countries in the region will be included in SGE-ASF when relevant according to the extension of the disease.

- Internationally recognised ASF or swine disease experts with experience working in Asia will be included in the group on an ad hoc basis on agreement of the SGE-ASF. Invitations will be handled by the secretariat at the request of the SGE-ASF.
- Additional internationally recognised experts on ASF or other technical topics to be invited by the group to support the SGE-ASF on an ad hoc basis.
- The SGE will meet regularly, with the frequency depending on needs. The meetings will take place on a rotating basis hosted by members of the SGE-ASF with host to chair the meeting upon agreement of SGE-ASF.

- **Secretariat:** GF-TADs Asia Pacific Secretariat (OIE Tokyo) in coordination with FAO RAP

Funding mechanism

- Voluntary financial contributions from member countries to FAO and OIE
- External donors

Meeting Mechanism

- The meetings will take place in the SGE-ASF member countries, on a rotating basis;
- The SGE-ASF will meet in person at least once a year; electronic consultations and virtual meetings may be organised between meetings.
- Language: English with no interpretation;
- Host country to provide the logistics: meeting room, identification of a suitable hotel, transfer to and from the hotel and, if possible, dinner;
- Agenda and invitation to be sent by the SGE-ASF secretariat upon agreement with the hosting member of the SGE;
- Summary minutes of the meeting to be prepared by SGE-ASF secretariat, circulated to participants by e-mail and published on the website of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific.

Meeting attendees

- **Member Countries:**
 - o A decision maker (CVO or appointed representative of CVO)
 - o Technical expert in the topic being covered.
 - o Total number from each member country should not exceed 4 (with exception of host)
- **Subject-matter experts** selected from renowned international ASF experts and regional swine disease experts
- **Representatives of OIE and FAO**
- **Representatives of partner organisations:** Upon agreement of the members of the group
- **Meeting observers:** Upon agreement of the hosting member

Specific SGE-ASF Activities

The technical areas to be discussed would be decided by the SGE and may include:

- ASF epidemiology, including risk-based surveillance
- prevention and control strategies
- ASF Laboratory diagnostics and potential research programmes including ASF vaccine development
- Biosecurity
- Wild boar – distribution, ecology, management and epidemiological role in swine disease in domestic pigs.
- ASF risk communication
- Outbreak management
- The use of zoning and compartmentalisation
- Border control measures
- Socio-economics