



**Standing Group of Experts-African Swine Fever (SGE-ASF) Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Region**  
**Qingdao, China**  
**27 – 28 July 2023**

**The meeting notes:**

- On updated ASF situation, and past and ongoing activities conducted by FAO and WOAH to support ASF prevention and control in the region based on the regional collaborative framework.
- On the availability of the WOAH PVS ASF specific content methodology to allow countries to assess their strengths and weaknesses in ASF prevention and control.
- On the global initiative to improve biosecurity through the Progressive Management Pathway for Terrestrial Animal Biosecurity (PMP-TAB).
- On examples of biosecurity reinforcement conducted in low-input swine production system in the Philippines through the Community ASF Biosecurity Intervention (CABI) approach, and in high-input swine productions systems in China through the application of compartmentalization.
- On various efforts related to biosecurity improvement at the country level to control ASF and minimize its impacts to food security, farmers' livelihoods and economics shared by the participating countries.

**The meeting recommends:**

**1. Information sharing**

- Continue to share timely information on the following, supported by a mechanism for exchange:
  - ASF prevention and control measures implemented in each country, including biosecurity, surveillance and early detection, vaccination trials, zoning and compartmentalisation are shared within the SGE [Members: M]
  - ASF situation particularly changes in epidemiology, molecular characteristics, and pathogenicity of circulating ASF virus (ASFV) strains in the region [M]/ [International Organisations: IO]

**2. Surveillance & Control measures**

- Continue to apply and strengthen existing measures in the control of ASF:
  - Strengthen the application of biosecurity, including the adoption of community-based biosecurity intervention programmes to facilitate buy-in and sustainability of these practices,

- and leverage on social and behavioural sciences so that risk management measures and risk communication may take into account the attitudes and practices of pig holders. [M]
- Foster adopting the PMP-TAB, a collaborative, stepwise approach to assessing and managing biological risks, with shared public-private responsibilities for greater resilience at producer level, taking an integrated and holistic approach to manage risks to food security, and livelihoods. [M]/ [IO]
  - Maximise the use of existing tools such as zoning and compartmentalisation to limit the spread of ASF and facilitate business continuity; refer to international guidelines such as the guidelines on compartmentalisation for ASF, clean-chain approach for ASF in smallholder settings and share experience within the regions to encourage uptake. [M]/ [IO]
  - Strengthen animal identification, traceability and movement control systems including across borders and conduct economic forecasting to allow targeted control measures to be taken on high-risk pathways during high-risk periods. [M]
- Explore innovative approaches and emerging technologies to augment traditional control measures:
    - Monitor and encourage research developments in key ASFV epidemiologic parameters so that recommendations are up-to-date and based on the latest science, e.g., inactivation of ASFV in swill and quarantine period. [M]/ [IO]
    - Explore alternatives to whole-herd depopulation for ASF control, e.g., early detection, partial culling and carcass management whilst limiting losses to producers. [M]/ [IO]
    - Monitor and share information on the progress of vaccination trials for ASF, in particular paying attention to safety, shedding and potential to reversion to virulence and generation of novel recombinant strains. [M]
    - Provide guidance on vaccine development, evaluation and the design of vaccination programmes for ASF, including requisite legislative and regulatory systems, resourcing, logistical considerations and post vaccination monitoring. [IO]
    - Consider the importance of conserving indigenous endangered species of pigs in control measures.

### **3. Collaboration and cooperation**

- Continue to:
  - Participate in SGE-ASF meetings as a modality for the exchange of information and cooperation between countries and to include other countries in the Asia-Pacific region (not limited to infected countries) in order to enable a regional collaborative approach in the control of ASF. [M]
  - Engage the private sector and relevant associations in the formulation of control strategies and participation of technical meetings and communicate research needs to the Global Alliance for Research in African swine fever (GARA) to advocate research in identified gaps. [M]/ [IO]
  - Communicate recommendations of the SGE-ASF meetings and advocate the importance of ASF to decision-makers within the country, relevant Ministries, regional economic communities and associated technical working groups. [M]/ [IO]

- Support and participate in discussions under the Global Coordination Committee for ASF to enable the sharing of experiences across regions and foster synergies and cooperation in addressing priorities in common for ASF. [M]/ [IO]

#### **4. Next steps**

- Update Terms of Reference of SGE-ASF based on meeting discussions
  - GF-TADs Regional Secretariat to circulate revised ToR to meeting attendees and CVOs (mid-August)
  - Adoption of ToR to be undertaken by voting members of GF-TADs RSC (end August) [M]/[IO]
- Update and prioritise identified topics for the SGE-ASF based on meeting discussions
  - SGE-ASF Secretariat to share topics identified to attendees for prioritisation

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