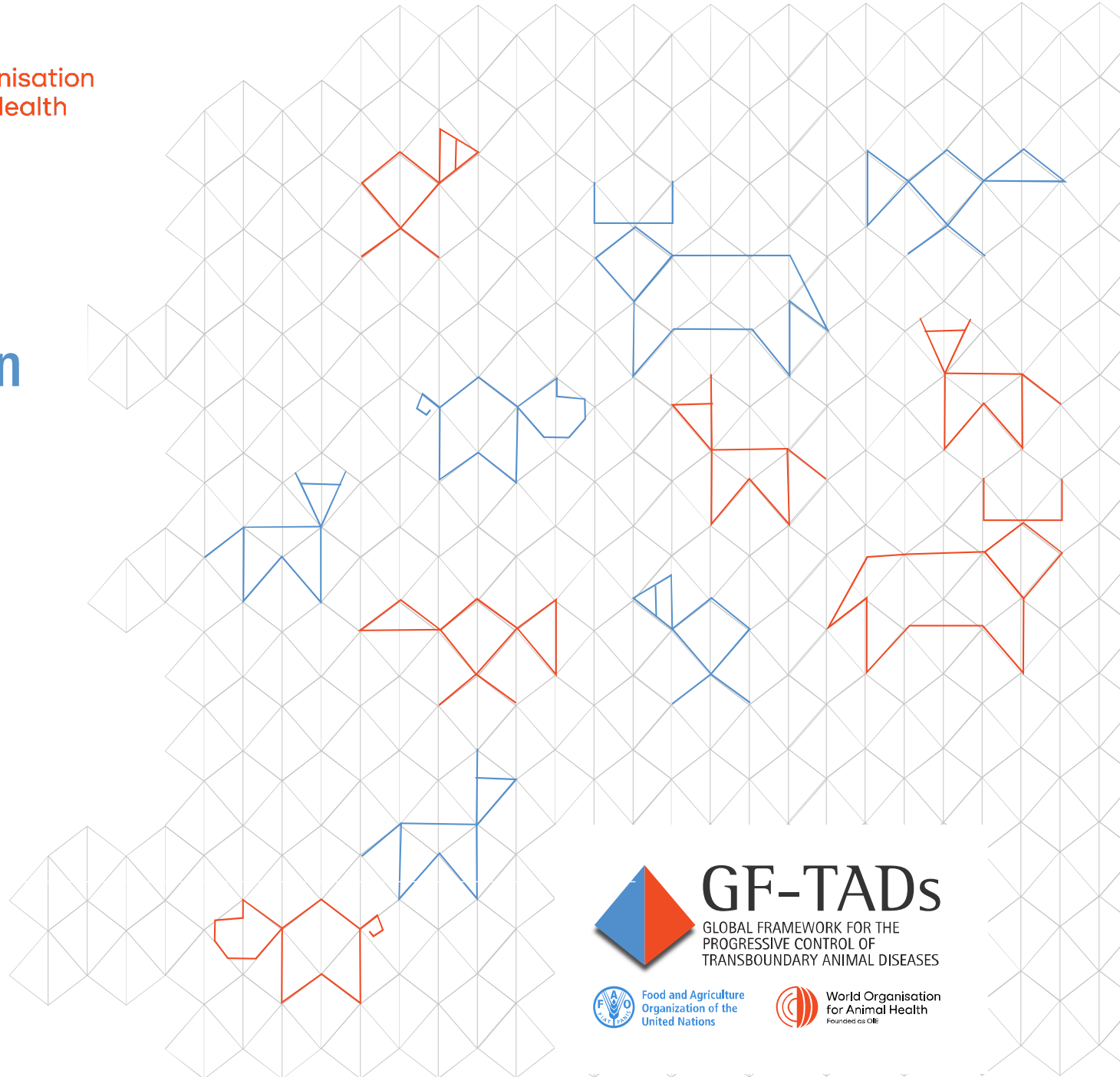


Ninth Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever for Asia and the Pacific



Recommendations, Work Plans, and Updates from the Eight SGE ASF Meeting in Qingdao, China

Joy Lagayan

Regional TADs Coordinator

WOAH RRAP, Japan

Eight SGE ASF Meeting

Qingdao, P.R. China, 27-28 July 2023

- First in-person meeting after the pandemic
- Meeting focused on 'biosecurity reinforcement'
- Participants: China PR, Japan, Mongolia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Bhutan, Nepal, SAARC Secretariat, Observers, FAO, and WOA



Objectives of the Eight SGE ASF Meeting



- **Review and follow up key actions** to implement recommendations of previous ASF meetings at regional and global levels
- **Update global and regional ASF situations**, including epidemiology, distribution of ASFV and country experience on disease control
- Discuss on and explore the potential national and regional reinforcement of **biosecurity measures against ASF** and other swine diseases

Discussions

- **Updated ASF situation**, including past and ongoing activities by FAO and WOAHA to support ASF prevention and control in the region based on the regional collaborative framework
- Availability of the **WOAH PVS ASF specific content methodology** to allow countries to assess their strengths and weaknesses in ASF prevention and control
- Global initiative to improve biosecurity through the **Progressive Management Pathway for Terrestrial Animal Biosecurity (PMP-TAB)**
- 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 production systems in China through the application of **compartmentalization**
- Sharing by participants 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



Meeting Recommendations *(Adopted 08 August 2023)*

1. Continue timely **Information Sharing**

- ✓ ASF prevention and control measures (biosecurity, surveillance and early detection, vaccination trials, zoning and compartmentalization); and ASF situation updates (epidemiology, molecular characteristics, and pathogenicity of circulating ASFV strains in the Region)

2. **Surveillance and Control Measures**

- ✓ Continue to apply and strengthen existing measures in the control of ASF:
 - Enhanced biosecurity practices through community involvement and use social science to tailor risk management and communication to pig holder behavior.
 - Foster a collaborative framework (PMP-TAB) for assessing and managing biological risks, involving public-private sectors to build producer resilience and safeguard food security.
 - Utilize zoning/compartmentalization to limit ASF spread and maintain business, sharing best practices and referring to international guidelines.
 - Enhance animal ID, traceability, and movement control, including cross borders and conduct economic forecasting to focus on disease control efforts on high-risk pathways during high-risk period.
- ✓ Explore new approaches and emerging technologies to augment traditional control measures:
 - ASFV Epidemiologic parameters, alternatives to whole-herd depopulation, progress of vaccination trials, guidance on vaccine development, and consider importance of conserving indigenous endangered species of pigs in control measures

Meeting Recommendations *(Adopted 08 August 2023)*

3. Continue Collaboration and Cooperation:

- ✓ Actively participate in regional and global efforts: participate in SGE-ASF meetings, Global Coordination Committee discussions, and collaborate with Asia-Pacific countries (infected and non-infected) to control ASF.
- ✓ Engage in the private sector and researchers to formulate control strategies, advocate research needs, and communicate recommendations to decision-makers.

4. Next Steps

- ✓ **Update Terms and Reference of SGE-ASF based on meeting discussions**
 - GF-TADs Regional Secretariat to circulate revised ToR to meeting attendees and CVOs (mid-August 2023)
 - Adoption of ToR to be undertaken by voting members of GF-TADs RSC (end of August 2023)
- ✓ Update and prioritise identified topics for the SGE-ASF based on meeting discussions

Adopted from 06 October 2023

Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever for Asia and the Pacific

Objective

Strengthening regional cooperation and regional dialogue on ASF through the following:

- Identify the needs of the region, support the implementation of ASF prevention and control programmes and provide advice to manage ASF better;
- Focus on the regional specific parameters which need to be practical for the region;
- Identify and prioritize research topics and emerging issues on ASF;
- Develop a mechanism for the regular exchange of information on the ASF situation and control measures applied;
- Share resources and expertise via networks among regional reference laboratories and reference centers;
- Regular review of national, regional and global control strategies based on their experience and best practice, with a view to coordinate disease control policies and building a coordinated science-based regional control strategy;
- Engage with other sectors and stakeholders, such as private sectors, research institute and research funding agencies;
- Encourage members to advocate the outcome of SGE to be applied to the national policy and strategy.

Terms of Reference

- The Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever (SGE-ASF) for Asia and the Pacific was established under the umbrella of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific¹

[Members]

- Members of the SGE-ASF for Asia and the Pacific include members affected by ASF and at-risk;
- Representatives from sub-regional expert groups;
- Experts from ASF reference laboratories and collaborating centres in the region;
- Internationally recognised ASF or swine disease experts with experience working in Asia on an ad hoc basis on agreement of the SGE-ASF. Invitations will be handled by the secretariat on the request of the SGE-ASF;
- Additional internationally recognised experts on ASF or other technical ones, such as private sectors and/or related associations to be invited by the group to support the SGE-ASF on an ad hoc basis. Invitations will be handled by the secretariat at the request of the SGE-ASF.

[Report]

- The SGE-ASF for Asia and the Pacific reports to the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the GF-TADs
- The SGE-ASF for Asia and the Pacific contributes to the Global Coordination Committee (GCC) for ASF

[Secretariat]

- **Secretariat:** GF-TADs Asia Pacific Secretariat (WOAH RRAP) in coordination with FAO RAP acts as technical secretariat for the SGE-ASF for Asia and the Pacific

¹ Founding members: People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea



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Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever for Asia and the Pacific

Funding mechanism

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

Meeting Mechanism

- The SGE-ASF will meet in-person at least once a year; additional in-person, hybrid or virtual meetings may be organized depending on needs
- The meetings will take place and be hosted in the SGE-ASF member countries, on a rotating basis
- The next host country will be identified and informed at least one year in advance, preferably at the preceding SGE meeting. As far best, the tentative hosts should already be identified for the next three years to facilitate planning
- Where possible, the meeting will be organized back-to-back with other meetings for practicality and synergies with other relevant diseases
- Host country is expected to provide the logistics: meeting room, identification of a suitable hotel, transfer to and from the hotel and, if possible, dinner and field visits;
- 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 WOA Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific. The summary should be also formally sent to CVOs/WOA Delegates and Regional Economic Communities.
- Exchange of expertise from our region to others when applicable

Meeting attendees

- **Members:**
 - o A decision maker (CVO or nominated representative of CVO)
 - o Nominated focal points for ASF
- **Technical expert** nominated by CVO, e.g., reference lab
- **Subject-matter experts** selected from renowned international ASF experts and regional swine disease experts
- **Representatives of WOA 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:

- Monitoring changes in disease epidemiology, including molecular characteristics and pathogenicity of circulating strains;
- Early detection and use of point of care diagnostic tests - what, when, how and interpretation, use of non-traditional surveillance approaches (e.g. panic sales);
- Alternatives to whole-herd depopulation for ASF control, e.g. partial culling and carcass management;
- Approaches to prevention and control including zoning and compartmentalisation (lessons learnt and advice), identification and traceability systems and information management systems;
- The use of socio-economics in controlling ASF- monitoring impact through pigs/ pork prices/ trade flows, economic flows; leveraging on social sciences to guide risk management behaviors and design of risk communication;
- Vaccine manufacturing and authorization (safety and efficacy testing protocols) including regulatory frameworks, R&D and results of trials, key risks (e.g. shedding, potential to revert to virulence, generation of field recombinant strains);
- Vaccination strategies for ASF- objective, target sub-populations, DIVA tests, exit strategy, post-vaccination monitoring and impacts on surveillance;

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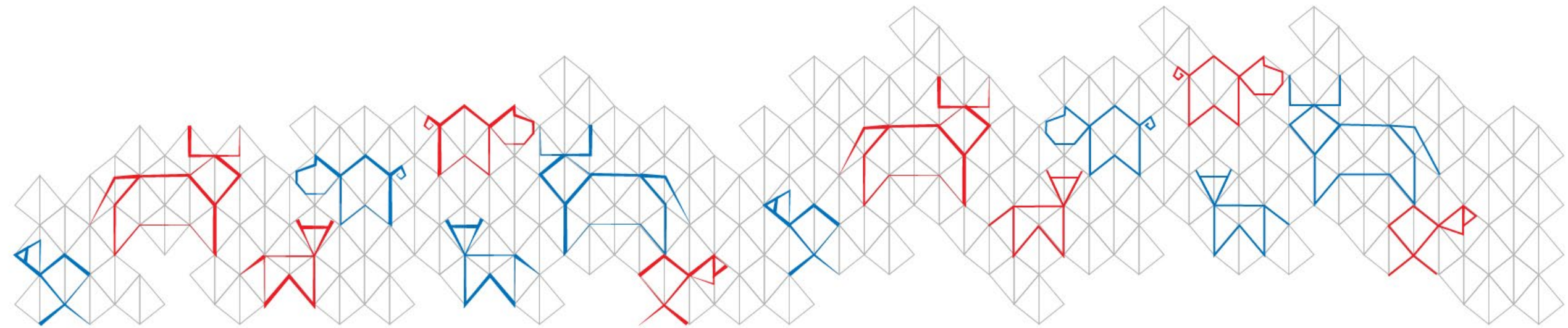
Ninth Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on **African Swine Fever for Asia and the Pacific**

- Review and follow up on the key actions to implement recommendations of previous ASF meetings at regional and global levels.
- Discuss updates on the latest global and regional ASF situations focusing on risk communication strategies
- Share best practices on **risk communication and community engagement**, and **successful strategies for ASF prevention, management and control**.

Expected Outcomes

Ninth Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on **African Swine Fever for Asia and the Pacific**

- Members will be able to **collaborate in overcoming past implementation challenges in advancing key recommendations from previous ASF meetings** (global and regional).
- Increased knowledge of the global ASF situation, including best practices in risk communication
- **Strengthened awareness and knowledge of best practices on risk communication and community engagement, and development of collaborative initiatives for regional cooperation and resource sharing.**



Thank You