



**Ninth Standing Group of Experts-African Swine Fever (SGE-ASF) Meeting for the Asia-Pacific
Manila, Philippines
24 to 27 June 2024**

The Ninth Standing Group Experts (SGE) on African swine fever (ASF) Meeting for Asia and the Pacific, co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) with technical support from the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines, from 25 to 27 June 2024, aimed to further strengthen collaboration and exchange lessons learned on the best utilization of communication/awareness interventions for ASF prevention and control in the region. This event was attended by 17 SGE Member countries, experts on ASF, representatives of WOAH and FAO, and observers¹.

The meeting notes:

- GF-TADS and the SGE remain an effective coordination mechanism to share ASF best control practices and build, maintain and strengthen cooperation among Members and key stakeholders including the private sector;
- With the currently available risk management tools, the regional aspirational goal for the next 3-5 years should be to ensure business continuity in the presence of the disease and preserving the free status of some countries, or regions/zones within countries;
- Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) has an essential role in the risk management framework, based on the following communication principles: Informed by data, Measurable, Planned, Audience & People-centred, Collaborative, and Targeted (IMPACT);
- It is the goal of RCCE to empower communities to share the leadership, planning and implementation of initiatives for effective, equitable and sustainable management of ASF risks;
- Several Members have successfully implemented RCCE strategies that have led to behaviour changes in target communities which appear to have resulted in effective and sustainable ASF risk reduction.

¹ A total of 64 (23 females, 41 males) attended the event.

The meeting recommends:

1. Strengthening of national RCCE capacities as one of the key pre-requisites for effective, equitable and sustainable ASF management by:
 - a. establishing multidisciplinary communication teams at country level [M²];
 - b. coordination with key stakeholders and strengthening partnerships for sustainability, especially communication specialists and social scientists to develop animal health communication campaigns [M/IO³];
 - c. strengthening community engagement [M];
 - d. supporting training specific to RCCE [M/IO];
 - e. invest and support research to identify best practices for RCCE including monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) in the communication strategies [M/IO].

2. Promoting the sharing of information and communication materials at national and regional level by:
 - a. creating and managing a repository and/or community of practice to share RCCE strategies, materials and tools [M/IO];
 - b. exploring innovative approaches of materials and messaging on ASF communication [M/IO]

3. Strengthening of coordination, collaboration and cooperation by:
 - a. encouraging Members to develop ASF communication strategies [M];
 - b. providing a platform for sharing communication initiatives [IO];
 - c. Including all relevant stakeholders along the pig value chains and for wild pigs in RCCE initiatives [M]

4. Next steps
 - Finalisation of recommendations
 - Possible host country for the next SGE-ASF Meeting: based on the poll result, the candidate can be either Viet Nam or Japan
 - Preferred topic/theme for the next SGE according to the poll at the end of the meeting was 'Alternatives to traditional ASF disease control'
 - Pre-meeting survey to be conducted prior to the next SGE meeting to follow up on the recommendations from the previous meeting topic
 - If appropriate, invite the private sector as observers to the next SGE

The meeting thanks the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China for their financial contributions, and the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industry, the Philippines for hosting this meeting.

² M: members

³ IO: International Organisations