

FOURTH AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) COORDINATION MEETING FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA 26 – 28 November 2024, Hanoi, Vietnam

MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Fourth African swine fever (ASF) Coordination Meeting for South-East Asia organised by (WOAH) Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA) in collaboration with Department of Animal Health, Vietnam from 26 to 28 November 2024 in Hanoi, Vietnam, aimed to further strengthen collaboration and coordination of ASF prevention and control in South-east Asia and to enhance implementation of ASEAN ASF Prevention and Control Strategy. The event was attended by 9 ASEAN Member States (AMS), Australia and China, Experts on ASF, representatives from WOA and other Partners.

Considering

- That 9 out of 10 countries in South-East Asia are affected by African swine fever (ASF), including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam;
- The substantial impacts of ASF on livelihoods and food security, particularly among smallholders, and its implication for trade;
- The new developments in disease epidemiology at global, regional, and country level, including the circulating recombinant ASFV types;
- The availability of global and regional strategies, such as the Global ASF Control Initiatives, Global and Regional GF-TADs Strategies, WOA international standards on ASF and relevant ASEAN Strategies;
- The endorsement of the ASEAN ASF Prevention and Control Strategy (AAPCS) and Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework by ASEAN Bodies including ASWGL, SOM-AMAF and AMAF;
- The numerous interventions made by Members and Partners, including the pilot use of ASF vaccines;
- The importance of timely information sharing and a well-coordinated approach among countries in South-East Asia;
- The challenges faced in the region to effectively prevent and control ASF, and to reiterate that the most effective way is to implement a risk-based biosecurity measures;
- And the importance of regional coordination and collaboration for the effective control of ASF and other TADs.

The Fourth ASF Coordination Meeting for South-East Asia, held on 26 – 28 November 2024 in Hanoi, Vietnam, made the following recommendations for a better coordination and implementation of ASF prevention and control activities in South-East Asia to:

➤ Members

1. Enhance ASF surveillance, conducting thorough investigation of ASF outbreaks, including sequence analysis, to understand circulating ASFV strains; and conduct scanning surveillance to detect attenuated and circulating vaccine strains in the region;

2. Conduct value chain studies to understand and map the key stakeholders along the ASF risk pathways and identify which are critical points for effective interventions to control ASF spread;
3. Strengthen ASF diagnostic and epidemiological capacities, including Point of care (POC) tests, serology, and molecular diagnosis, through capacity-building programmes, such as training and proficiency testing or inter-laboratory comparison testing by liaising with the ASF Reference Laboratories and Partners;
4. Conduct risk assessments and surveillance for disease freedom, and establish animal disease-free zones and compartments in alignment with country and WOAHS Standards to facilitate safe trade;
5. Promote biosecurity in small holding farms through appropriate interventions, such as community approach to biosecurity interventions (CABI);
6. Develop policy briefs on the importance of investing in prevention and control of ASF and other TADs;
7. Foster public private partnerships to enhance prevention and control of ASF
8. Identify and develop synergies between ASF control and other TADs or other livestock production/health activities;
9. Review and revise legislations to address emerging needs and enhance prevention and control of ASF and other TADs;
10. Provide feedback on the draft WOAHS standards on ASF vaccines before the deadline i.e. 27 December 2024;
11. Align national ASF Control Plan with the ASEAN ASF Prevention and Control Strategy (AAPCS) and its implementation plan;
12. Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of AAPCS in collaboration with AMS and Partners;
13. ASEAN leads countries and WOAHS to develop the Terms of Reference for the ASEAN ASF Core Group to enhance the implementation of AAPCS;
14. Share ASF case definition and National ASF Control Strategy/ Plans;
15. Initiate ASF risk assessment studies and develop or review country level ASF risk-based Strategies;
16. Utilise the AAPCS as a framework for developing and implementing further projects and activities for ASF prevention and control.

WOAH and Partners

17. Support ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the implementation of the ASEAN ASF Prevention and Control Strategy (AAPCS);

18. Align support on ASF prevention and control in the ASEAN region in line with the AAPCS;
19. Support capacity building initiatives of AMS, including laboratory diagnostics, surveillance, biosecurity and risk assessment;
20. Assess the need for and develop a progressive control pathway for ASF, similar to those established for other TADs with global strategies;
21. Conduct a review of ASF prevention and control strategies implemented in Southeast Asia;
22. Assist AMS in adopting WOAHS standards on ASF vaccines, including evaluating vaccine quality and conducting field assessments.

Endorsement:

23. Endorsed the implementation plan for ASEAN ASF Prevention and Control Strategy and the baseline for M&E indicators.

Acknowledgement:

The meeting thanks the Governments of Australia and China for funding this event and the Department of Animal Health, Government of Vietnam, for its successful hosting of the 4th ASF Coordination Meeting for South-East Asia.