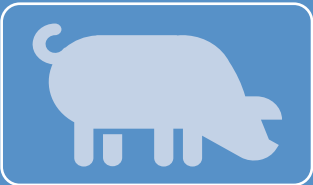
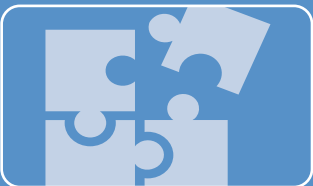


The FAO Position Paper on ASF Vaccination*

Does not provide a recommendation to vaccinate or not!



Evaluate if and when ASF vaccine should be used



Key elements to include in the vaccination strategy



Considerations for different epidemiologic situations

* Aligns with the WOAHP standards for the production of safe and effective vaccines against ASF adopted in May 2025 **Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals Chapter 3.9.1** and the WOAHP **Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Chapter 4.18** with additional ASF specific considerations

11th Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever for Asia and Pacific, Seoul, the Republic of Korea, 11-13 August 2026



Food and Agriculture
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Considerations for competent authorities and livestock industries on use of African swine fever vaccines (Genotype II) to enhance disease control



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ASF vaccines: challenges and current status

Challenges for vaccine development and production are :

- The identification of ASF viral protein protective antigens
- Limiting infection, replication, and long-term virus persistence
- Possibility to revert to virulence, shedding, recombination with field strains
- Vaccine can mask disease while the virus continues to spread
- Issues with growing the vaccine virus in established cell culture lines
- Limited cross-protection against newly emerging recombinant ASFV strains

Emergence of recombinant strains: Asia exhibits unique I/II recombinant strains - first identified in China (2021), subsequently detected in Vietnam and Russia (2023). Licensed vaccines show reduced or no protection against recombinants



ASF vaccines: current status

Viet Nam approved three first licensed ASF modified-live virus (MLV) vaccines (2022):

- 1. Genotype II ASFV-G- Δ I177L strain
- 2. Genotype II ASFV-G- Δ MGF strain
- 3. Genotype II ASFV-G- Δ I177L/ Δ LVR strain
- Recent research has identified evidence of reversion to virulence for ASFV-G- Δ I177L, while studies on ASFV-G- Δ MGF showed no full reversion but noted increased replication and transient clinical signs upon passaging.

The Republic of Korea approved two licensed ASF modified-live virus (MLV) vaccines **for export only** (2026):

- ASFV-MEC-01 strain
- ASFV-G- Δ I177L/ Δ LVR strain



General considerations for ASF vaccination programs



VACCINATION OBJECTIVES AND
STRATEGIES



INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND
MITIGATING RISK



OUTBREAKS SPECIFICS AND
VACCINE
CHARACTERISTICS/PRACTICALITIES



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Vaccination Objectives

- What is the purpose and desired outcome of a vaccination program?
- When will you stop vaccination? What does an endpoint look like?
- What are the costs and benefits of a vaccination program?
- What level of vaccine coverage is needed to meet your objectives?
- What level of strategy do you need? State, regional, federal?



Recommended: Implement well defined official control programs rather than voluntary vaccinations without monitoring by the authorities.

Monitoring reversion to virulence and persistence

Reversion to virulence and persistent infection are a serious concern!

Field safety testing, thorough post-vaccination monitoring and active surveillance, will help to:

- Identify and timely investigate potential reversion to virulence
- Address potential virus persistence (of vaccine or field strain)

Value chain stakeholders must be trained to detect any ASF clinical signs and react rapidly.

General considerations for vaccination programs – Vaccination strategies

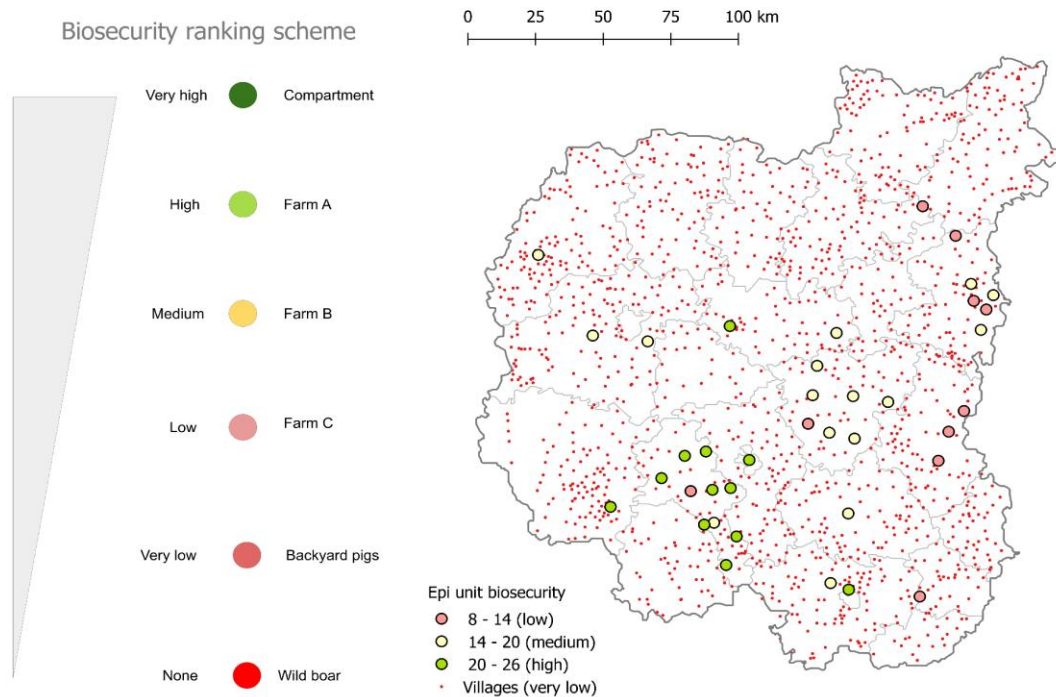
Four vaccination strategies based on the outbreak situation (see Terrestrial Animal Health Code):

- barrier to prevent spread
- blanket vaccination of all susceptible animals
- ring vaccination of all susceptible animals in around a known outbreak
- targeted vaccination of a subpopulation of susceptible animals.

These can serve as a basis for designing vaccination programs

Different combinations of these strategies may be used

Outbreak specifics



Need for evidence-based decision making, centered on surveillance and field data

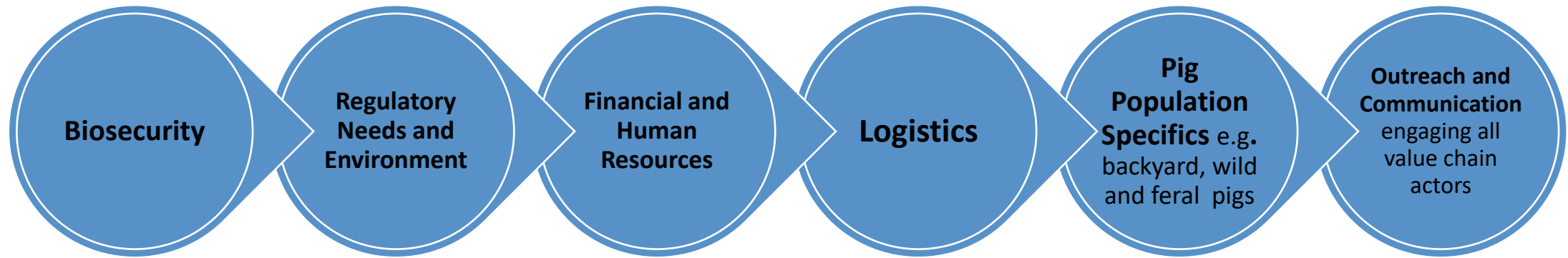
- Matching of vaccine and field strain based on sequencing results
- Epidemiologic patterns and affected /at risk populations and their interfaces, movement patterns
- Presence of high value populations to be protected



Vaccine characteristics

- Vaccine must be safe, efficacious, potent, and pure → **Use only approved vaccines**
- Importance of vaccine and field strain matching, cost and availability of vaccine
- Practical aspects e.g.
 - ✓ vaccine formulation,
 - ✓ vaccination protocol,
 - ✓ number of doses/vial;
 - ✓ storage and cold chain requirements; age and production type of pigs
 - ✓ viability of vaccine bottle once open
- Differentiation of Infected from Vaccinated Animals (DIVA) is desirable but a non-DIVA vaccine which is superior to a DIVA vaccine, should be weighed in the design of the vaccination strategy.

Essential elements for an effective vaccination program



Remember - Vaccination is not a replacement for good biosecurity!

Specific considerations

Based on Disease Status

Specific considerations - Endemic Countries

- Preservation of animal resources and food security may be most common objective
- Consider limitations of resources in the long-term
- DIVA might not be necessary but thorough post-vaccination surveillance must be in place
- Special consideration should be given to situations where wild pigs serve as main reservoir and overlap with domestic population
- If wild pigs are reservoir, consider the feasibility of vaccinating them to prevent infection in domestic swine
- Vaccination might be the only measure to protect wild pigs species from extinction

Specific considerations Previously Free Countries or Area with New Outbreaks

- Consider a barrier or ring vaccination strategy in addition to vaccination within the control zone
- Ensure emergency authorization of vaccine, if not already approved
- Importance of movement controls, animal identification and traceability
- DIVA would be valuable
- If non-DIVA vaccine is used: permanent identification of vaccinated animals will help determine seropositive non-clinical animal status

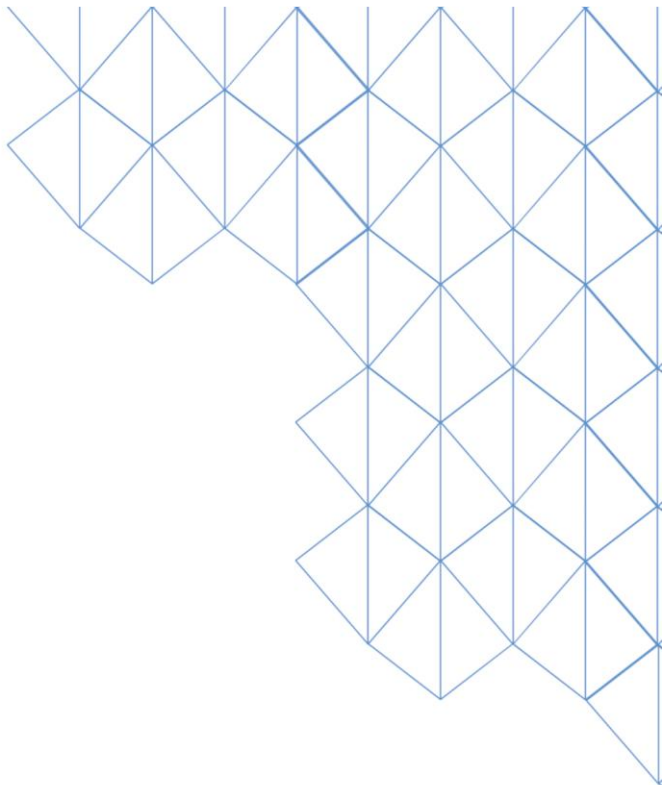
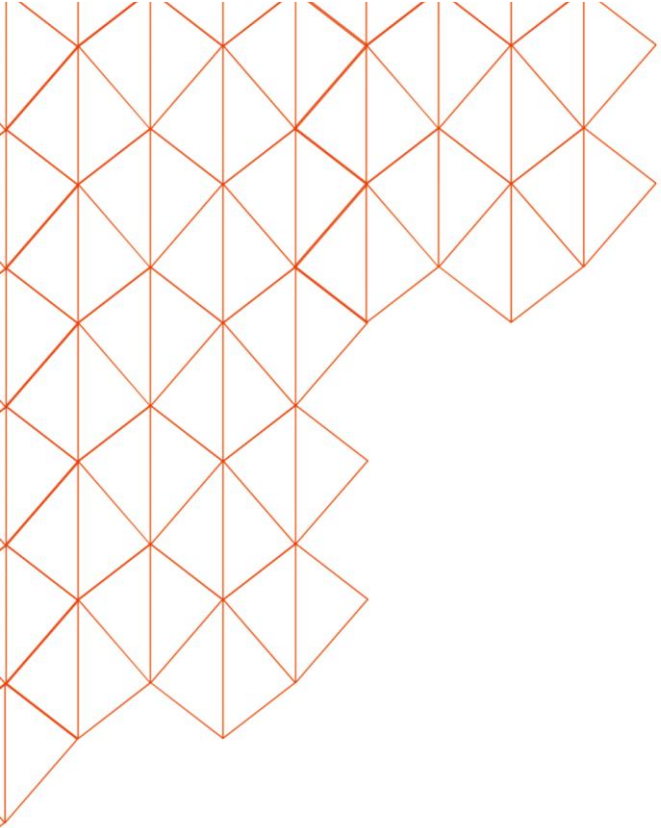
Specific considerations - Free countries with exceptionally high risk for ASF

- Ensure emergency authorization of vaccine, if not already approved
- Consider importance of a DIVA vaccine
- Consider potential risk of vaccination to mask infection and thus promote spread
- Base on thorough risk assessment: define areas and populations to be vaccinated and control vaccine distribution and administration
- Movement control and traceability will support an effective vaccination program

Specific considerations - Free countries with exceptionally high risk for ASF

Free countries

- Risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis provide insight into the utility of vaccination
- Consider how a vaccination program might impact the ability for early detection of ASF and subsequent control programs.
- Consider how vaccination would impact the country's ability to regionalize



Thank you