WOAH ASEAN ASF Workshop, 2 to 4 May 2023 Manila, The Philippines





Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences

> 香港城市大學 City University of Hong Kong in collaboration with Cornell University

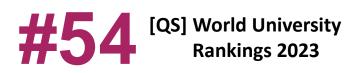
# Developments in ASF Epidemiology and its Prevention and Control

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[QS] World University Rankings 2023 Veterinary Science

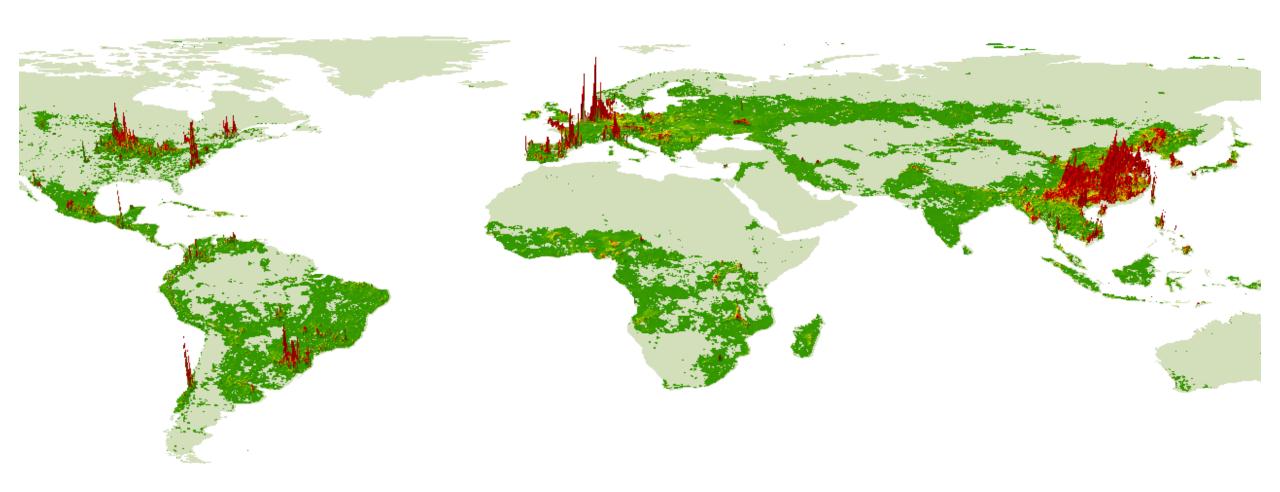


# Context



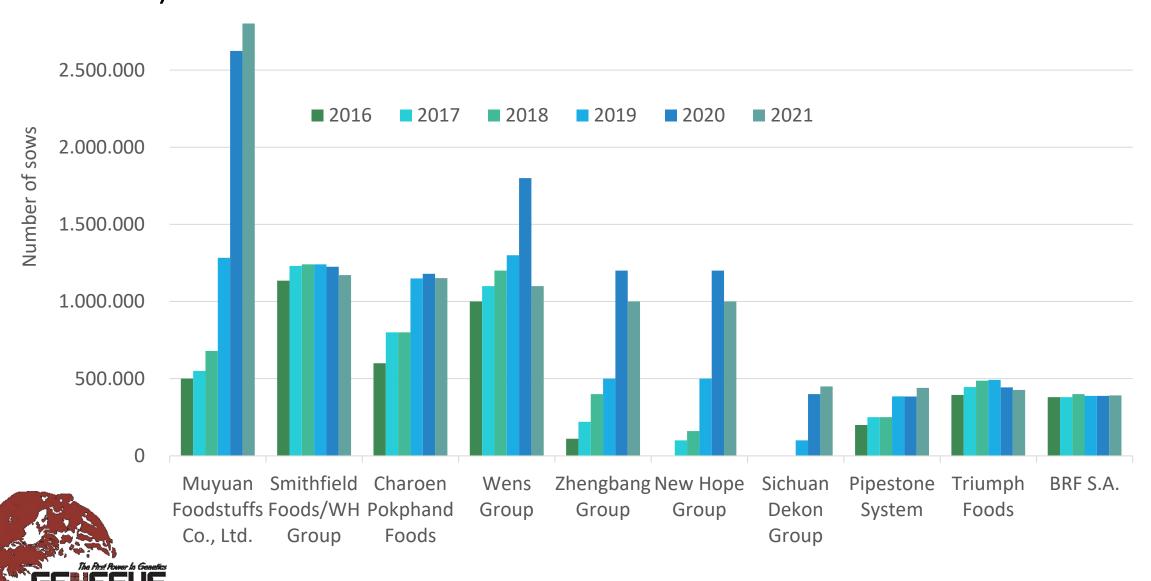


# Pig Density in 2015



Pig density data from: Gilbert M, G Nicolas, G Cinardi, S Vanwambeke, TP Van Boeckel, GRW Wint, TP Robinson (2018) Global Distribution Data for Cattle, Buffaloes, Horses, Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Chickens and Ducks in 2010. Nature Scientific data, 5:180227. doi: 10.1038/sdata.2018.227

# Top 10 Global Pig Mega Producers (no of sows) between 2016 and 2021







DECEMBER 7, 2020 / 1:27 PM / UPDATED A MONTH AGO

#### Flush with cash, Chinese hog producer builds world's largest pig farm

from Dominique Patton (Reuters): Muyuan's new mega farm near Nanyang, which will eventually house 84,000 sows and their offspring, is by far the largest in the world, roughly 10 times the size of a typical breeding facility in the United States. It aims to produce around 2.1 million pigs a year.



A drone image shows Muyuan Foods newly built multi-storey pig farm in Neixiang county, Henan province, China November 6, 2020. Muyuan Foods/Handout via REUTERS



### China's Bid to Improve Food Production? Giant Towers of Pigs.

High-rise hog farms have sprung up nationwide as part of Beijing's drive to enhance its agricultural competitiveness and reduce its dependence on imports.

## Smuggling of Meat



South China Morning Post



'Guerilla tactics' at sea: smugglers in daring comeback after crackdown on speedboat trade of frozen meat from Hong Kong to mainland China

South China Morning Post



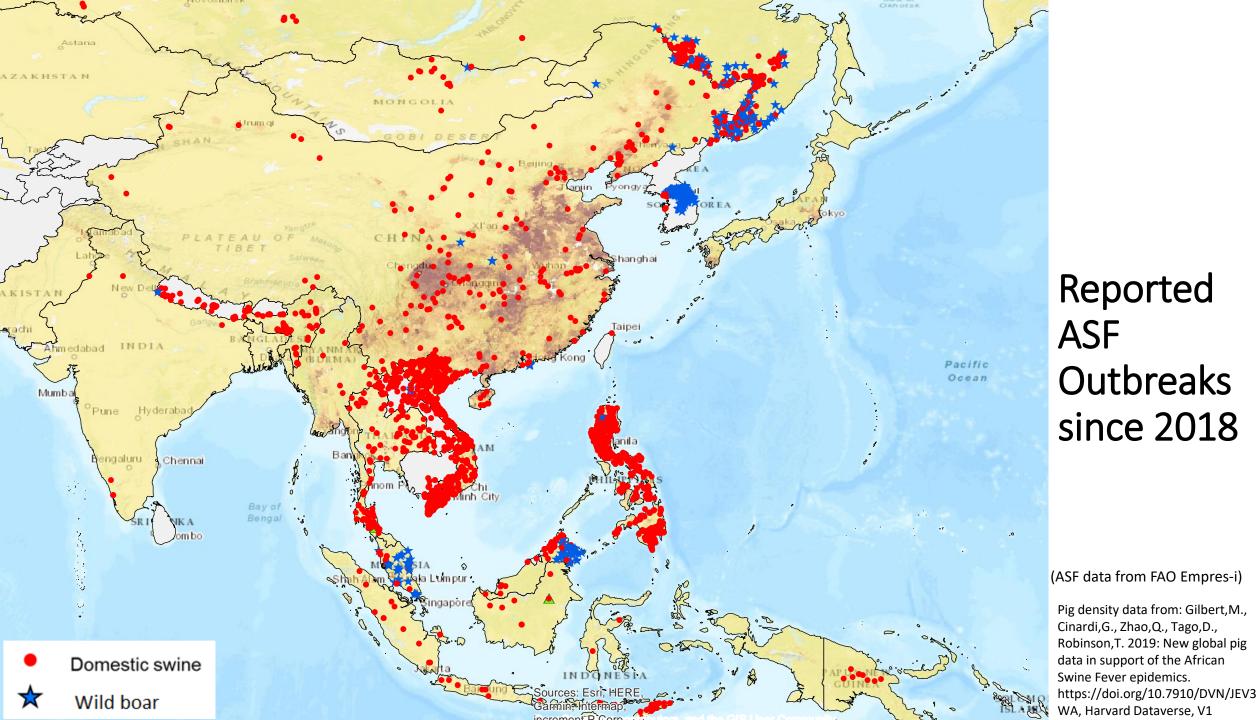
# Frozen meat worth more than HK\$2 billion seized in anti-smuggling operation in Hong Kong

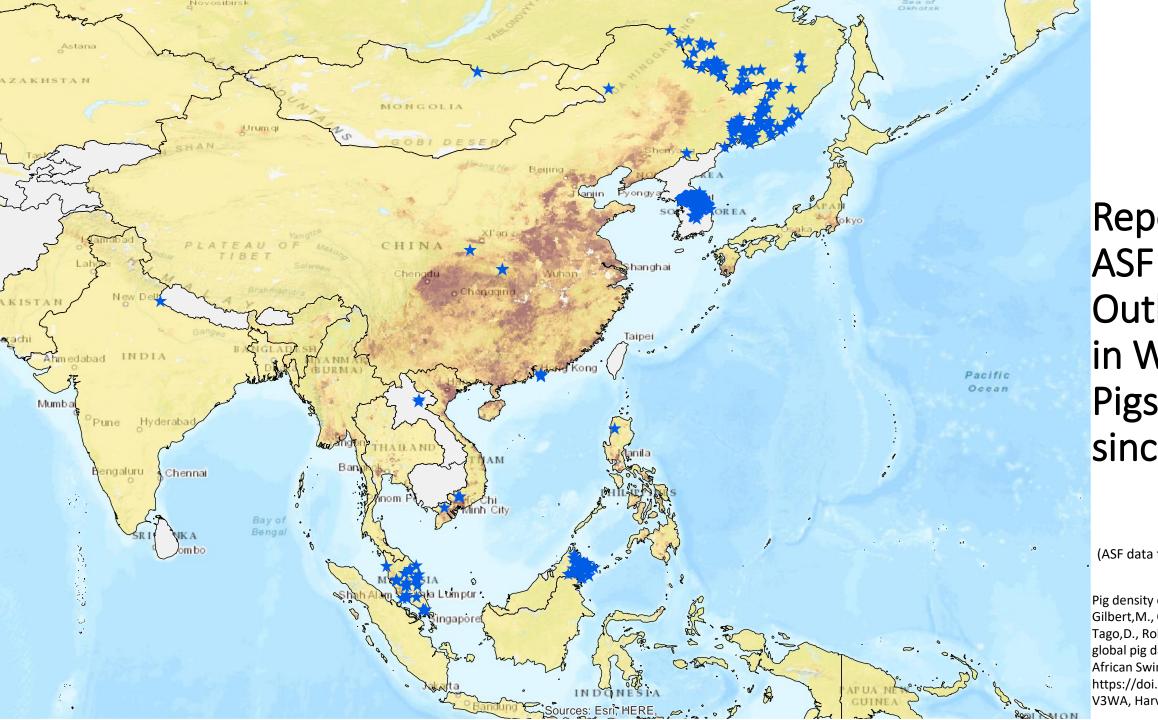
- Haul found in container yard in Lok Ma Chau near mainland Chinese border and one suspected triad member arrested
- More than 200 containers packed with beef, pork, lamb and offal, shipped from various countries, including Germany, Chile and Australia

# Epidemiology of ASF in Asia





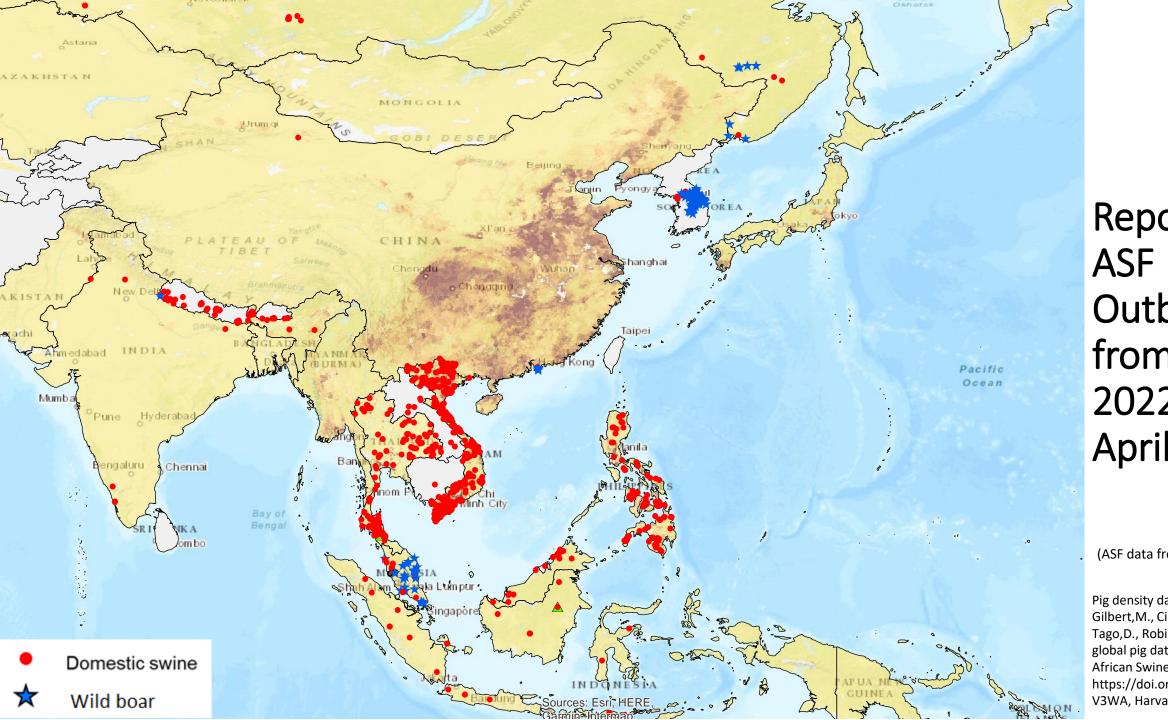




## Reported ASF Outbreaks in Wild Pigs from since 2018

(ASF data from FAO Empres-i)

Pig density data from: Gilbert,M., Cinardi,G., Zhao,Q., Tago,D., Robinson,T. 2019: New global pig data in support of the African Swine Fever epidemics. https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/JE V3WA, Harvard Dataverse, V1

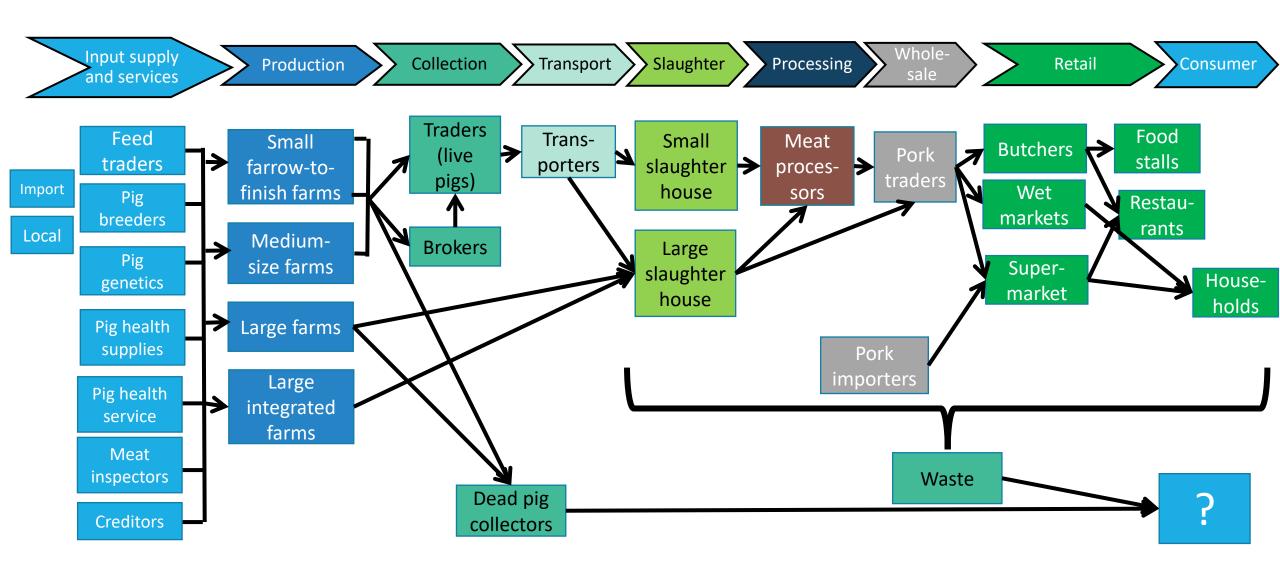


Reported ASF Outbreaks from Jan 2022 until April 2023

(ASF data from FAO Empres-i)

Pig density data from: Gilbert,M., Cinardi,G., Zhao,Q., Tago,D., Robinson,T. 2019: New global pig data in support of the African Swine Fever epidemics. https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/JE V3WA, Harvard Dataverse, V1

## Value Chain for Pork Food System



# Conclusions





### Conclusions

- ASFV introduced to Asia in 2018, and slowly became endemic in many countries in region
  - wherever there is pig production, ASFV will be introduced sooner or later
    - whether it becomes endemic depends on
      - local pork food system characteristics
      - ability of industry and government veterinary service to contain/eradicate
- pig industry rapidly intensifying in some countries
  - what are the risks, what are the benefits?





### Conclusions cont.

- important issues
  - culling policies
    - effectiveness of within-herd selective culling?
  - role of wild boar in different contexts
  - changing clinical presentation, if so, why?
    - emergence of low virulence strains and/or spread of vaccine strains
  - current and potential role of vaccines (legal/illegal)
    - define aim of officially approved ASFV vaccine use (eradication versus containment)
- need to develop strategies for 'living' with ASFV
  - given current absence of evidence of feasibility to conduct epidemiologically effective largescale vaccination campaigns
  - focus on
    - enhanced biosecurity across pork value chain
    - early detection of infection followed by epidemiologically and socio-economically sensible response
    - minimising time from virus introduction to detection, suspicion, reporting, confirmation and action
      - normal background mortality
      - differential diagnoses
      - optimisation of processes





## Thank You for Your Attention!





