Inception workshop of the FAO project “African Swine Fever emergency preparedness in the Balkans”

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

The role of OIE in the global control of African Swine Fever

Dr Budimir Plavsic
OIE Regional Representative. Head of RR in Moscow

Belgrade, Serbia, 18-21 February 2019

Content:

- The mandate and organizational structure of OIE
- Major OIE standards on ASF
- Global epidemiological situation on ASF
- Surveillance on ASF
- Global and regional activities on ASF (GF-TADs)
- Conclusions
- Recommendations
- Key take-home messages
History

An international technical and science-based Organisation

1924 - Creation of the Office International des Épizooties (OIE)
1945 - Creation of the United Nations
2003 - New preferred name: World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

1 Headquarters in Paris (France)
5 Regional Representations
7 Sub-regional Representations

Regional (RR) and Sub-regional (SRR) Representations

Under the direct authority of the Director General
Collaborate closely with Regional Commissions
182 Member Countries in 2018

Governance structures of the OIE

World Assembly of Delegates
World Assembly of Delegates

Highest authority of the OIE

- Composed of all national Delegates of the OIE
- Convenes at least once a year in May

Adopts the OIE Standards published in the OIE Codes and Manuals

1 Member = 1 vote

The Delegate

National Representative for the OIE

- Responsible for negotiating international veterinary standards
- Notification to the OIE of the national animal disease situation
- National representative with international status

Appointed by the national government

(most frequently, the country’s Chief Veterinary Officer)
**Director General**

*Since 1 January 2016*

- Elected in May 2015 by the World Assembly of national Delegates
- 1st woman elected to this position
- Implementation of the 6th Strategic Plan 2016-2020

**Dr Monique Éloit**

---

**Global presence of the OIE**

- 182 Member Countries
- 301 Reference Centres
- 75 Partner organisations
- 1 Headquarters
- 12 Regional & Sub-regional Representation
Reference Centres

301
Reference Centres

246
Reference Laboratories

55
Collaborating Centres

3 strategic objectives

1
Improving animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management

Developing science-based guidelines and standards to address:

- Antimicrobials use and alternatives
- Global disease control and eradication
- Climate change and biodiversity
- Biothreat reduction
- Incorporate social, economic and environmental sciences
- Further implement the One Health concept
- Enhance countries’ official disease status recognition
- Take into account new technologies
3 strategic objectives

2

Reinforcing trust through Transparency and communication

3 strategic objectives

3

Supporting and strengthening Veterinary Services at the front lines of public health
The OIE International Standards on ASF

- OIE Web-pages on ASF
  - Key facts
  - Technical Card on ASF
  - Transmission and spread
  - Clinical signs
  - Diagnostic
  - Prevention and control
  - Geographical distribution

www.oie.int

Cooperation between OIE and hunters

- 2011 - OIE Global Conference on Wildlife Animal Health and Biodiversity, Paris (France),
- 2011 - The cooperation agreement between OIE and CIC (International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation)
- International Centre for wildlife disease control in Pravets (Bulgaria),
  - Agreement signed in 2012,
  - Assembly approved in 2015,
  - Established in cooperation between OIE, EU, CIC, FACE, with support of Bulgaria,
  - Good model for long-term collaboration
  - Recommendations available:
Epidemiological situation on ASF

- Reported in 3 continents with different level of emergency:
  - Africa: the disease is endemic and not under control, nor well reported
  - Europe: the disease is better contained, mainly wild boar cases, but the geographical extension is not stabilized
  - Asia: emerging cases, but spreading of the disease is very fast, outbreak on big farms
Current situation on ASF

- Global situation, 2016 – 2019 (27/01/2019)

Situation on ASF from 2007 – 2019 (Europe)
Current situation on ASF - Africa

- February 1 – 14, 2019

Current situation on ASF - Europe

- January 1 – 27, 2019
Current situation on ASF - Europe

- February 1 – 14, 2019

Current situation on ASF - Asia

- January, 2019
Current situation on ASF - Asia

- February 1 – 14, 2019

Impact of the disease
- 98% of losses in China
  - Reoccurrence in big farm
- Losses in Europe
- Africa – no new outbreaks

Current situation on ASF

- January, 2019
- Impact of the disease

- ASF outbreaks reported through the Early Warning System

Graph: Losses in Asia, Europe, and Africa
Current situation on ASF

- The impact of African swine fever in Asia since August 2018 (People’s Rep. of China and Mongolia)

![Graph showing the impact of ASF in Asia, focusing on China and Mongolia.](image)

Figure 2. Impact of ASF in Asia (China (People’s Rep. of) and Mongolia). Cumulative number of animal losses (dead animals + culled animals) by administrative division affected.

Current situation on ASF - Asia

- the temporal evolution of the number of outbreaks reported by China (People’s Rep. of) and Mongolia since August 2018

![Bar chart showing the number of outbreaks in different months.](image)
Current situation on ASF - Asia

- the temporal evolution of the number of administrative divisions (new administrative divisions and cumulative number) affected since August 2018 in Asia

![Graph showing the temporal evolution of administrative divisions affected by ASF in Asia](image1)

Current situation on ASF - Asia

- China (People’s Rep. of) and Mongolia, January 29, 2019

![Map showing affected administrative divisions in China and Mongolia](image2)
Current situation on ASF - Asia

- China (People’s Rep. of) and Mongolia- the distribution with location of the outbreaks reported from August 2018 - January 27, 2019

Epidemiological situation on ASF

- Could be monitored regularly on the OIE website
Surveillance of ASF

- ASF - complex context of surveillance
  - Domestic and wild animals
  - Active and passive surveillance
  - Stakeholders, coordination, communication
  - Chain of command
  - Effectiveness of notification (time, responsibilities)

- Main risks for spreading\(^1\):
  1. Illegal imports
  2. Contaminated transport associated fomites (trucks, boats, planes)
  3. Wild boar movement

\(^1\): 82nd GS, 2014, Dr Sánchez-Vizcaíno et al.
Surveillance of ASF

- Target populations
  - Domestic animals
  - Captive wildlife
  - Feral animals
  - Wildlife
  - Mixed population (see video)

Surveillance of ASF

- Roles of different stakeholders:
  - Farmers
  - Field veterinarians
  - Hunters
  - Veterinary Authority

- Responsibilities:
  - Understanding on the disease and environment (land, forest)
  - Good knowledge about susceptible populations (domestic pigs and local wildlife), and structure of pig farms
  - Regular health control of domestic pigs, veterinary checks, movement certification and control
  - Regular observing of health of wild animals
  - Direct contact of domestic pigs with wildlife
  - Interest in having a healthy wildlife
  - Well informed about wildlife and hunting species
Surveillance of ASF

- Role of hunters in surveillance of ASF:
  - Observe changes in the population dynamic
  - Detect clinical signs (mortality) – and notify
  - Inspect hunted animals
  - Close contact with veterinary authority
  - Active role in surveillance design
  - Education/capacity building
  - Population management
  - Samples submission

Regional coordination on ASF (Europe)

GF-TADs
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF TRANSBORDER ANIMAL DISEASES

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
World Organization for Animal Health
Regional coordination on ASF

- What is (GF-TADs)?
  - Launched on May 24, 2004
  - Joint initiative of FAO and OIE, with the participation of WHO for the zoonoses
  - Global objective: to achieve the prevention, detection and control of TADs
  - GF-TADs is a facilitating mechanism for:
    - empowering regional alliances in the fight against TADs
    - providing for capacity building
    - assisting in establishing programmes for the specific control of certain TADs based on regional priorities

Driving idea: to build on the complementarities of FAO and OIE and find synergies

Global GF-TADs

- 5 year Action Plan
- External evaluation performed in 2017/2018
- Priority diseases of the Global GF-TADs
  - Rinderpest
  - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)
  - Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
  - Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)
  - Rabies
**General governance of the GF-TADs**

**Global Steering Committee**
- co-chaired by FAO and the OIE, includes donors, etc.
- Meeting once a year

**Global Secretariat (hosted in FAO)**

**Management Committee**
- FAO and OIE HQ representatives + global secretariat
- Meeting several times per year

**Regional Secretariat**
- Provided by the OIE sub-regional representation in Brussels

**Global GF-TADs**

**Regional GF-TADs**
- Chaired by a designated member of the RSC
- Meeting once a year

**Regional Steering Committees**

**GF-TADs for Europe**

**Composition of Reg. Steering Committee:**
- Representatives of Chief Veterinary Officers - 2 EU members (Belgium and the Netherlands), and 2 non EU members (Russia and Georgia)
- The 4 Members of the Bureau of OIE Regional Commission for Europe: Latvia and Austria (Serbia and Belarus)
- 1 Representative of OIE and FAO Headquarters each
- 1 Representative of OIE and FAO Regional representation each
- 1 Representative of WHO
- Representatives of Donors: France, Italy, Switzerland
- Representatives of Regional Organisations: European Commission and EuFMD

**Regional Secretariat**

- Full meeting every 2 years – next meeting in October 2019

GF-TADs for Europe

- Terms of reference
  - established in 2010,
  - revised in 2013
- Initial priority diseases:
  - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)
  - Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
  - Classical Swine Fever (CSF)
  - Rabies
- Current initiatives:
  - African Swine Fever (ASF)
  - Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)
  - Rabies (February 2019) – new

ASF activities of the GF-TADs for Europe

- Standing Group of Experts for ASF (SGE/ASF)
  - Chaired by the President of the RSC
  - Funded by the European Commission
  - Members: all countries affected by ASF (BE, BG, BY, CZ, EE, HU, LT, LV, MD, PL, RO, RU, UA)
  - Observers from any other country welcome
  - Regular meetings since 2014:
    - 2014: Minsk
    - 2015: Tallinn
    - 2016: Moscow, Paris, Lisbon and Vilnius
    - 2017: Paris, Chisinau
    - 2018: Kiev, Paris, Warsaw
    - 2019: Prague – 11 and 12 March
ASF activities of the GF-TADs for Europe

- **Typical agenda of a SGE meeting:**
  - Detailed presentation of the situation on the ground by each member country, with discussions and exchange of views
  - Study of a particular thematic (e.g. biosecurity, biology of wild boars, surveillance, border control)
  - Presentation of possible new scientific data / opinions / reports
- **Deliverables:** written recommendations, publicly available

Warsaw, September 2018

ASF activities of the GF-TADs for Europe

- Collection and dissemination of ASF resources, including ASF awareness and training material in many different languages for many target groups (farmers, hunters, travelers…)
- All available in a e-depository on the website of the GF-TADs for Europe
- Incl. recommendations, presentations
**ASF activities of the GF-TADs for Europe**

- **GF-TADs Handbook on African Swine Fever in wild boar and biosecurity during hunting**
  - Epidemiology of ASF in wild boar populations
  - Some aspects of wild boar biology and demography relevant to control of ASF
  - Approaches to wild boar population management in the areas affected by ASF
  - Biosecurity in infected forests
  - Biosecurity during hunting
  - Data collection

**Effective Communications Between Veterinary Services and Hunters**

- **Experts missions in the affected countries**
  - Teams include recognized and experienced experts
  - 2 - 3 days missions, funded by the European Commission with logistic of host country
  - **Deliverable:** written report with recommendations

- **More than 10 missions:**
  - 2015: Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine
  - 2016: Moldova
  - 2017: Czech Republic, Romania
  - 2019: Bulgaria (January), Belgium (May, tbc)

- **Well coordinated with other training activities:**
  - BTSF (e.g. March 2019)
  - FAO TCP project (e.g. for Balkans, February 2019)
ASF activities of the GF-TADs for Europe

- Key recommendations by SGE of GF-TADs (in following groups):
  1. Transparency and notification,
  2. Biosecurity,
  3. Surveillance,
  4. Hunting practices,
  5. Awareness campaigns,
  6. Border controls ...
- All available on: http://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/Regprog/en_GF_TADS.htm

ASF – what to take home?

- Key messages on ASF (general):
  1. ASF is not a danger to human health
  2. ASF kills wild and domestic pigs.
  3. ASF is responsible for severe economic losses and lack of food supply.
  4. The only ways to protect pigs, farming, food supply and wild life is to ensure preventative and control measures are implemented by:
     - Pig producers,
     - Hunters,
     - Travelers, truck drivers,
     - Airport and border staff.
     - Pig industry workers,
     - Transporters,
     - Veterinarians..
ASF – what to take home?

- **Key messages on ASF (specific):**
  1. It is possible to control and eradicate ASF
  2. Raise awareness and education of all sectors (incl. farmers, vets, governmental services, hunters)
  3. Application of biosecurity measures
  4. Strict application of legislation and OIE standards
  5. ASF surveillance programme (based on risk analysis);
  6. Regional coordination of prevention and control programmes
  7. Slaughter and destruction of sick animals and contaminated products,
  8. Joint work and close collaboration among all sectors involved
  9. Support to scientific community for research

ASF – what to take home?

- **Key messages on ASF (for hunters):**
  1. During your hunting trips, take all the measures needed to avoid spreading the disease
  2. Clean and disinfect your equipment, clothes, vehicle and trophies on site and always before leaving the area.
  3. Eviscerate shot wild boar in the designated area.
  4. Do not feed wild boar.
  5. Report any unusual wild boar behaviour or a dead animal (passive surveillance).
  6. Establish the trust and cooperate with vets.
  7. Do not visit farms unless it is necessary.
  8. If farm visit is needed, respect the biosecurity measures and wait 48 hours after your hunting trip
ASF – communication support by OIE

A set of awareness tools on ASF will soon be made available, with dedicated tools for:
• Commercial pig farms
• Pig farmers
• Hunters
• Travellers
• Transport authorities

Thank you for your attention!

Dr Budimir Plavsic
OIE Regional Representative in Moscow
b.plavsic@oie.int