

Concept Note

EMERGENCY REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER RISK REDUCTION AND PREPAREDNESS

5-7 September 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

Background

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious hemorrhagic disease, causing high morbidity and mortality in affected species of the *Suidae* family, including domestic pigs and wild boar. Historically, outbreaks of ASF in Western Europe and the Americas and elsewhere in the 1960's, 1970's, 1980's and 2000's, through the importation or feeding of waste with pork products to susceptible pigs has occurred. In March 2017, ASF made a "jump" from its known geographic distribution and occurred in domestic pigs in Irkutsk, Siberia, only 200 km from the Mongolian border and about 1000 km from the Chinese border.

The threat of incursion of ASF into China has been a concern and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted a risk assessment using expert opinion¹, which summarized that China's north-eastern regions (Heilongjiang province and Inner Mongolia) are the most likely sites for incursion of ASF. China is a major pig producing country and is home for more than half the global population of swine. On 1st August 2018, the first detection of ASF was reported from a pig farm in China. The local government in China at Provincial level implemented the African Swine Fever Contingency Plan and Emergency Response Level II immediately following the detection.

The high concentration of large-scale pig production farms, with associated value chains out of these high swine density areas implies that the risk of spread within the country and into the region remains high, if the disease is not contained. Currently, there is no effective vaccine to protect swine from this disease and in its more virulent (the one that entered China) form can kill 100% of affected pigs. The ASF virus is very hardy and can survive long periods in very cold and very hot weather, and even in dried or cured pork products or carcasses. Swine and swine product value chains are extensive with many connections at regional level for the purpose of commerce in meat and breeding. The complete restriction in movement would lead to more illegal movement to other provinces and even to the neighbouring countries to meet the demand. Movement of pig products can also spread the diseases quickly and in the case of ASF likely made its way to central and coastal parts of China. The further spread of ASF into eastern China and potential introduction into Southeast Asia and the Korean Peninsula now represents an imminent threat for the pig population in this region. In addition, there is a risk of spread through the wild suid population, which are widely distributed, along with the potential of resident *Ornithodoros* tick species acting as competent vector for the ASF virus in the region.

Therefore, FAO will organize an emergency regional consultation on the unfolding ASF situation in the region, in order to review approaches for risk reduction and preparedness both at the regional and country levels in order to minimize impacts to the pig production economy, the associated livelihoods and the food security of the region.

¹ FAO (2018) African swine fever threatens People's Republic of China: A rapid risk assessment of ASF introduction (<http://www.fao.org/3/i8805en/i8805EN.pdf>)

Objectives:

1. Review the ASF situation and risks to the rest of China and the region
2. Develop a regional approach for ASF risk reduction, preparedness and response.
3. Identify priority actions required for countries in a short, medium and longer term.
4. Facilitate the development of a stakeholder network for ASF

Expected Outputs:

1. Summary of the situation and risk profiles.
2. Key elements of the ASF regional strategies.
3. Summary of priority actions and next steps
4. Identified roles and responsibilities of stakeholders
5. Meeting report

Expected Participants:

No.	List of Invitees	Total
1	Animal Health Authorities including: Chief Veterinary Office/Director General, senior technical staff who are directly involved with disease prevention and control planning, and laboratory diagnosis relevant to ASF control from Cambodia, China, Japan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Republic of Korea Thailand, and Viet Nam (maximum 3 participants per country)	30
2	Representatives from private sector stakeholders from pig production industry in the region	10
3	Representatives from World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)	2
4	Representatives from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	2
5	External Experts from other regions such as European, Americas and others	5
5	FAO from headquarters and other region	3
6	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	10
7	FAO country teams	7
8	Rapporteur	1
	Total	70

Dates:

5-7 September 2018

Venue:

Bangkok, Thailand

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Provisional Agenda

Day/Time	Session
Day 1	Wednesday, 5 September 2018
Session 1:	Introduction and Scene-Setting
08.30 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.30	Opening, introduction, meeting objectives, meeting format and general updates
09.30 – 10.00	Scientific updates on African Swine Fever
10.00 – 10.30	<i>Coffee break and group photo</i>
Session 2:	Update on ASF Situation and Risks
10.30 – 11.30	ASF update from China
11.30 – 12.30	Experience from Europe: Lessons learnt and challenges
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
Session 3:	Risks at Country and Regional Level
13.30 – 15.00	Workshop to review ASF risks at country and regional levels, and current actions taken
15.00 – 15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.30 – 17.30	Workshop to review ASF risks at country and regional levels, and current actions taken (Continued)
17.30	End of Day 1
Day 2:	Thursday, 6 September 2018
Session 4:	Developing a Regional Approach
08.30 - 08.45	Summary of Day 1
08.45 – 10.30	Workshop: Identifying key elements of a regional approach for risk reduction and preparedness
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00 – 12.30	Workshop: Identifying key elements of a regional approach for risk reduction and preparedness (continued)
12.30 – 13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30 – 15.00	Group presentations on regional approach for risk reduction and preparedness
15.00 – 15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
Session 5:	Identifying Priority Actions
15.30 – 17.30	Workshop: Identifying priority actions at country and regional level
17.30	End of Day 2
Day 3:	Friday, 7 September



Session 6:	Approach, Actions for Stakeholder engagement
08.30 - 08.45	Summary of Day 1
08.45 – 10.30	Workshop: Revisit the approach, actions and stakeholders engagement for risk reduction and preparedness for ASF in countries and region
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00 – 12.30	Workshop: Revisit the approach, actions and stakeholders engagement for risk reduction and preparedness for ASF in countries and region (Continued)
12.30 – 13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30 – 15.00	Group presentations on stakeholders network with roles and responsibilities identified
15.00-15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
Session 7:	Conclusions and next steps
15.30-16.30	<i>Adoption of conclusions and recommendations for next steps</i>
16.30	<i>Closing remarks</i>