Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Organisation for Animal Health
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ACTIONS OF SGE-ASF III: Status of Implementation

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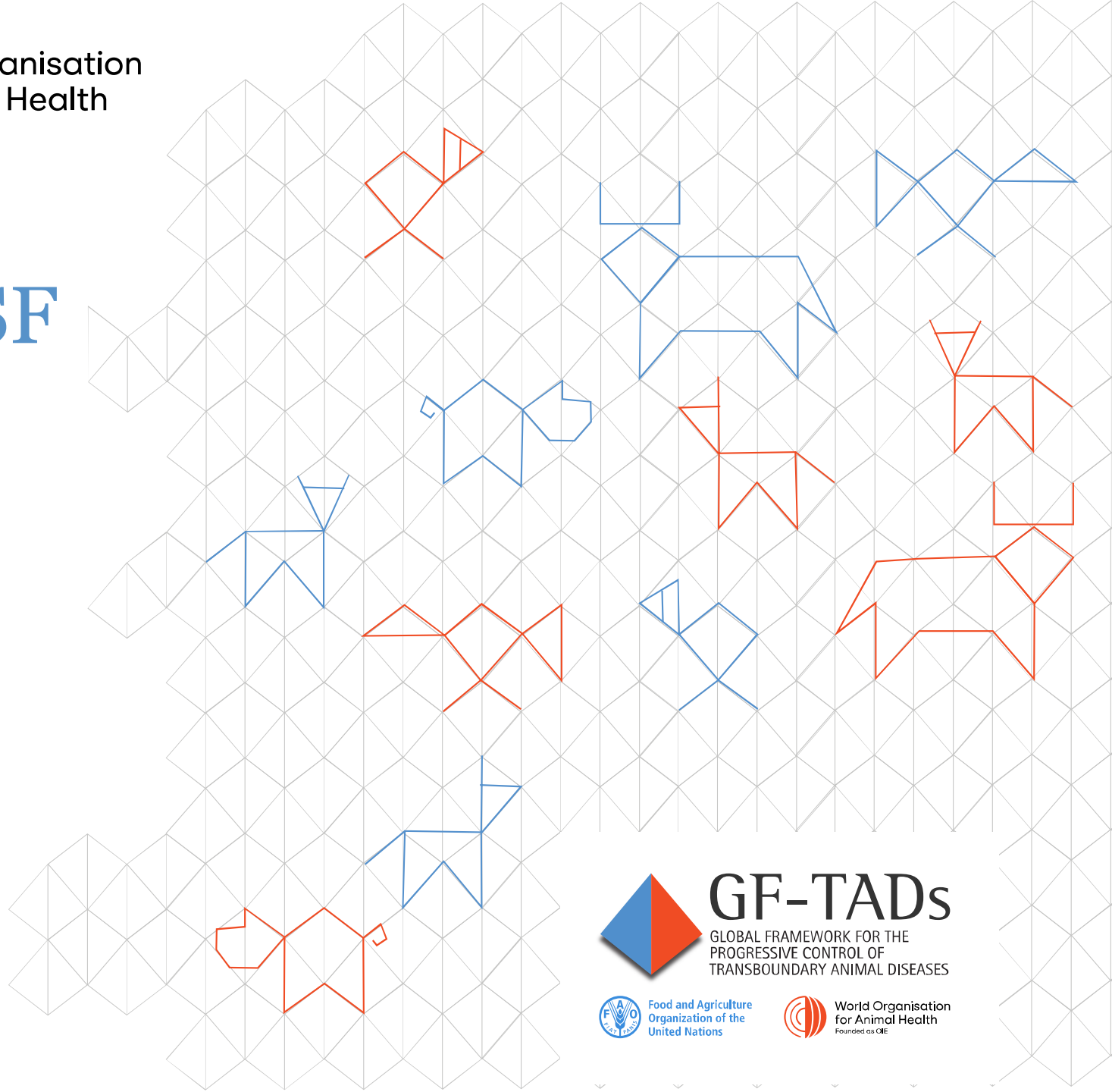

GF-TADs
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Standing Group of Experts: ASF III

01 – 03 August 2023

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

The specific objectives of this meeting were:

1. To strengthen biosecurity for the control of ASF along the value chain ;
2. Enhance surveillance and diagnostic capabilities for ASF control, both in the field and at the laboratory.

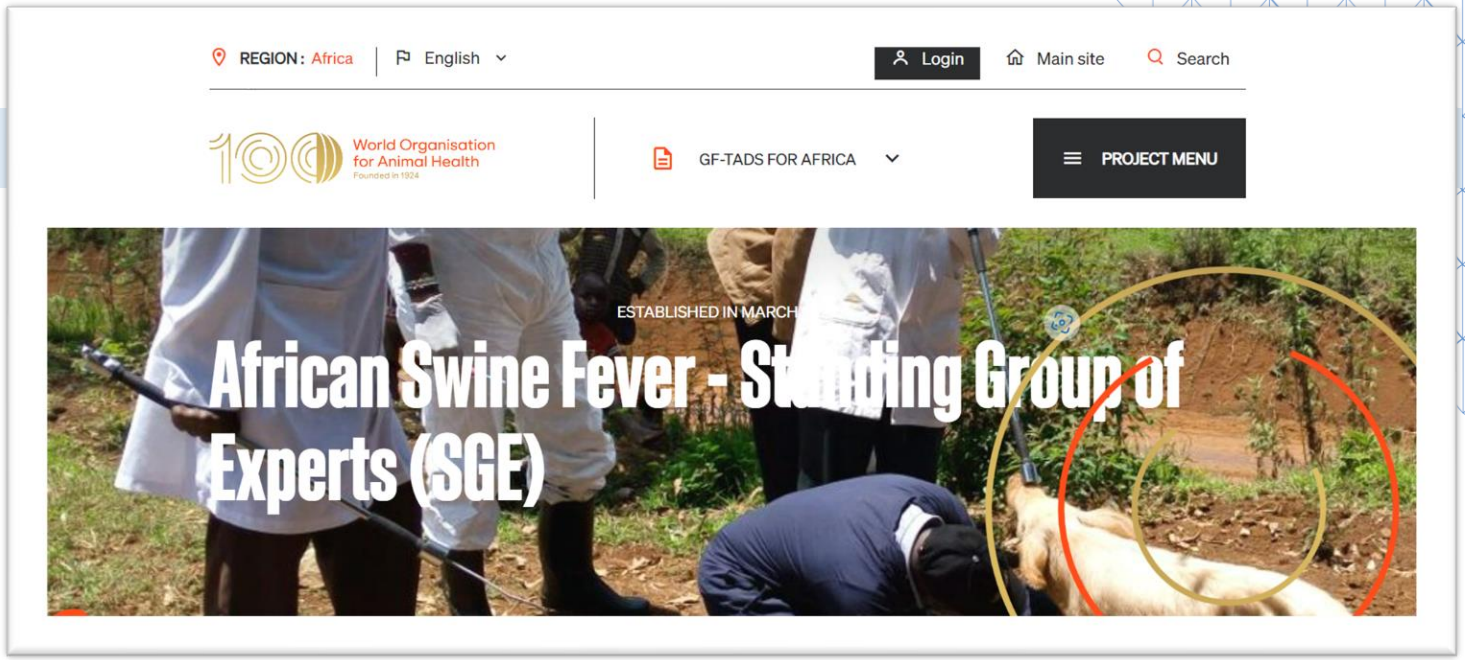
Group picture in front of the Silver Moon Hotel in Cocody, Abidjan (Patrick, WOAH).

Session 1. Governance aspects

Review of SGE – ASF II and Overview of the action points of the 2nd SGE meeting and their level of implementation,

Regional updates on the current ASF situation:

- Transport was noted as an important factor in spread of ASFV
- The warthog-tick-sylvatic cycle is known to be very important in SADC and the changing disease epidemiology discussed
- The meeting recognised eradication as a realistic goal in countries without wild pig or tick involvement
- The importance of the cross-border pig-trade as important in ASFV transmission and therefore the need for bilateral and regional collaboration.
- The need to fast-track validation and implementation of the regional strategy led by AU-IBAR



The report and video presentations in both English and French are available in the GF-TADs website for Africa : [Report of the 3rd meeting for the SGE-ASF in Africa.pdf (woah.org)]

Largely non-existent compensation policies in the smallholder sector, arguably contributing to non-reporting, is somewhat being re-assessed through the adoption of participatory approaches with involvement of farmers and value chain actors to support implementation of recommended biosecurity measures and timely disease reporting.

Key-note, including recall of key concept, the importance and the application of good practices, etc.

Biosecurity in the different value chains

- Sector 1 : Industrial, intensive,
- Sector 2 : Smallholder, semi-intensive,
- Sector 3 : Backyard, free-range, scavenging and extensive system

The backyard free ranging and scavenging production system (3) is characterised by low input, limited health care, intermingling of pigs of different sources and age groups, and biosecurity is mostly non-existent. In backyard production systems, animals might be partly confined. Feeding is coming mostly from kitchen waste, swill, industrial, market waste or municipality garbage.

The intensive and industrial sector (1) is not practised much in Africa. The biosecurity in such farms is usually high and suitable for compartmentalisation. These are formal value chains, easy to document, and sometimes in contractual arrangements with large commercial abattoirs

The semi-intensive production system, sector 2 is characterised by small herds that are mostly confined, lacking the critical mass for profitability, relying on home-mixed rations with variable health care and targeting local markets. Basic biosecurity is usually in place

Principle: Biosecurity measures should be acceptable and practically applicable.

Surveillance programmes should have clear ***objectives*** directed towards informing ***action***, should be risk-based, needs ***support*** of farmers

Clarity on the role of on-farm molecular surveillance: Molecular diagnostics on-farm can be used for early detection of the disease within five days at individual animal level.

The issue of under-reporting was raised and it was argued that improving surveillance and diagnostic capabilities could partly address reporting issues.

Community level surveillance including at markets, transportation and along the value chain is critical.

Reference Laboratory Network membership and their activities

Members agreed that early warning systems should be utilised more, rather than the over-investment in low-risk surveillance areas.

"If surveillance systems can't predict an outbreak, we are in danger of failing".

Some national labs have capacity to conduct serology, ELISA tests and molecular diagnosis, using conventional and real time PCR.

The common concerns were related to low submission rate of samples sent to the laboratories for confirmation, despite sometimes strong suspicion of ASF outbreaks, and the need for staff capacity building.

The meeting agreed to prioritise capacity-building on molecular techniques with the support of Reference Laboratories.

ACTION POINTS STANDING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON ASF III: BIOSECURITY

Action	Implementation
1. Members to conduct awareness raising and training for stakeholders along the value chain on biosecurity for ASF, with the support of FAO, WOAH, AU and development partners;	FAO VLC courses on: (1) Management of ASF in resource-limited settings & (2) On farm biosecurity and One Health for Veterinary Paraprofessionals (includes a module on pig farm security) for the SADC region – Mary Louise participation as lead trainer
2. Member countries to improve on the enforcement of existing regulations to apply biosecurity and surveillance activities for ASF, such as working with relevant governmental authorities and the private sector;	South Africa: The ASF Working group undertaking questionnaire surveys and working towards improving the existing legislation
3. Members to explore compartmentalization as a means to provide business continuity for commercial farms (sector 1), leveraging private-public partnerships to provide the necessary support;	South Africa: Compartmentalization is well established. The main challenge is acceptance of compartments as equivalent to free zones by prospective trading partners. Mary-Louise provided a podcast at the invitation of the Canadian pig producers to better explain compartments for ASF and the related WOAH standards. GARA Africa Chapter inaugural meeting provided members an opportunity to better understand the concept of compartmentalization – presentation

ACTION POINTS STANDING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON ASF III: BIOSECURITY

Action	Implementation
4. Members to consider biosecurity through an integrated approach addressing not just ASF but other priority swine diseases (e.g. porcine cysticercosis) to optimize the use of limited resources;	The FAO VLC course for paraprofessionals referred to above partially covers this aspect.
5. Members to consider FAO and WOAH guidelines regarding animal feed production and supply chain, and inactivation of ASFV in swill to limit and prevent the spread of the virus;	.
6. FAO and WOAH to update guidelines and standards on animal feed production and processing (including swill) based on the latest scientific evidence;	The FAO guidelines : https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/b20feaab-5f95-429c-9b23-441cd1d47e32,
7. Member countries to exchange information and collaborate with other countries (cross-border collaboration) in the application of biosecurity and surveillance in resource-limited settings with the support of FAO, WOAH, AU-IBAR and development partners;	???

ACTION POINTS STANDING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON ASF III: SURVEILLANCE

Action	Implementation
1. Member countries to prioritize the use of participatory approaches and community-based self-governance or self-regulation practices to incentivize the adoption of good biosecurity practices and surveillance to control the spread of ASF in resource-limited settings;	The abovementioned FAO VLC courses have a strong focus on participatory approaches and community engagement
2. FAO, WOAH, AU-IBAR and development partners to strengthen the use of social sciences and economic analyses to support members implement technically sound and feasible ASF control programmes;	
3. Member countries to improve capacity for ASF diagnostics, including genomic sequencing and the use of Point of Care (PoC) tests in the field for rapid ASF testing and participation in Reference Lab networks, including through WOAH twinning programmes;	National reference laboratories (Botswana, Benin, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania) participated in a week-long practical training on advanced diagnosis and molecular sequencing, conducted OVRI, Aug/Sep 2023
4. FAO/IAEA and WOAH Reference Laboratories and networks involving ASF, to provide guidance and facilitate access to diagnostic methods for ASF;	
5. Member countries are reminded of their obligation to report the occurrence (absence, presence) of ASF through WAHIS, including submission of data on wildlife;	In-country: Through Passive Monthly reports, Real time mobile phone reporting, Laboratory reports ASF Situation-Report-57.pdf (woah.org)
6. Given the resource constraints in conducting surveillance in domestic pigs, members to consider the use of proxy surveillance approaches to indirectly gather additional information on the ASF situation.	
Governance: Endorsement of ASF Control Strategy for Africa	Validated by CVO during the AU-IBAR CVOs meeting in 2024, Nairobi

Mentimeter: Taking stock of progress = Report

What has happened?

Where?

Who did it?

What was the output?

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