



National Updates and Opportunities to
strengthen capacities for ASF outbreak
management

Promoting evidence-based ASF control policies



ASF SGE meeting no. 4

15 - 17 October 2024, Online





Introduction:

- ▶ Control measures should be based on disease epidemiology, production system and context
- ▶ They should be risk based to avoid waste of resources
- ▶ They should be evidence based to be effective and acceptable
- ▶ There should be a strong focus on prevention and supporting business continuity
- ▶ Exploit the favourable characteristics of ASF for which peer-reviewed evidence is available:
 - ▶ Slow spread of the virus to minimize the number of pigs infected
 - ▶ Lack of airborne transmission over distances
 - ▶ Short survival of infectivity in the environment when not protected in durable organic material to enable earlier restocking





Stakeholder engagement to ensure feasibility and acceptability



- To implement biosecurity, find out what is possible - if measures are perceived to be impossible, nothing at all will be done:
 - For example, a ban on swill feeding will be ignored if there is no affordable alternative
 - Heating to specified temperatures for periods of 30-60 minutes will not be done - no thermometers, and fuel is expensive, so swill will be fed as it is
 - Evidence shows that boiling, which is visual, for 5-10 minutes is sufficient to eliminate infectiousness of the virus
 - Changes in legislation may be needed and we need to recommend them
- Partner with local communities to ensure that measures are culturally acceptable and to identify locally available resources that make biosecurity measures affordable





Risk management along value chains



- Understand local pig value chains to identify risk hotspots and ways to mitigate the risk
- Limit financial losses to pig breeders and other value chain actors through controlled slaughter and processing





ASF OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

EVIDENCE-BASED ALTERNATIVES TO TRADITIONAL METHODOLOGY





Financial considerations



- Reduce financial losses due to unnecessarily restrictive control measures:
 - Quarantine epidemiological units rather than geographically defined area
 - Ensure that movement restrictions are risk-based and apply only to pigs and pork
 - Minimize the number of pigs killed and needing disposal by partial/modified culling
- Find practical and acceptable alternatives to monetary compensation:
 - Link to support for restocking
 - Use sentinel pigs to confirm safety of premises (10% of stocking rate on larger farms, one or two pigs in smaller and backyard farms)
 - Supply as sentinels 4-6-month-old intact male and female pigs that can serve as core breeding stock



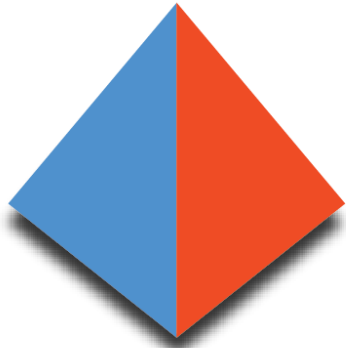


Conclusion



- Traditional methods of ASF outbreak control through stamping out with lengthy quarantine periods and movement restrictions are resource-intensive and evidence-based alternatives have been developed
- Prevention of ASF by biosecurity measures that are evidence-based can be feasible and affordable even in resource-limited settings
- Participatory approaches and stakeholder/community engagement are key to the success of prevention and control
- What about vaccination?
 - Safety concerns raised that are applicable to all live attenuated vaccines include development of chronic infections and changes in the field that include increased virulence
- We look forward to an effective vaccine as an additional tool, but we need more evidence!





GF-TADs

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