



Mapped activities of GAC about ASF vaccines & vaccination, and potential funding opportunities

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GARA Africa Chapter (GAC)**

14 October 2025

Lomé, Togo



Overview: Global African swine fever Research Alliance (GARA) Africa Chapter (GAC)

- GAC started in February 2023, in Kampala, Uganda, during the GARA GAP Analysis for ASF in Africa
- Five topics: Surveillance, Control, Diagnostics, Vaccines, Epidemiology
- The group was started to create a platform for ASF researchers in Africa to collaborate and share ideas.
- Secondly, to contextualize the objectives of GARA to meet Africa's needs and realities.



Strategic Goals of GARA

- ▶ Goal 1. Identify research opportunities and facilitate collaborations within the Alliance
- ▶ Goal 2. Conduct strategic and multi-disciplinary research to better understand ASF
- ▶ Goal 3. Determine social and economic drivers and impact of ASF
- ▶ Goal 4. Develop novel and improved tools to support the prevention and control of ASF
- ▶ Goal 5. Determine the impact of ASF prevention and control tools
- ▶ Goal 6. Serve as a communication and technology sharing gateway for the global ASF research community and stakeholders.



RESEARCH

Open Access



A comparison of manual and carbon dioxide trap sampling of *Ornithodoros* soft ticks from warthog resting sites in South Africa

Cynthia Mapendere^{1*}, Armanda D. S. Bastos^{1,2}, Etter Eric^{3,4}, Livio Heath⁵ and Ferran Jori^{1,6*}



Review

African Swine Fever Diagnosis in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities

Mary-Louise Penrith^{1,*} , Juanita van Emmenes² , Jean N. Hakizimana³ , Livio Heath², Tonny Kabuuka⁴, Gerald Misinzo^{3,5} , Theophilus Odoom⁶, Abel Wade⁷, Habibata L. Zerbo⁸ and Pam D. Luka^{9,*}

ases
4 pages
17

Research Article

Detection of African Swine Fever Virus Genotype II in West Africa (2020) and Its Co-Circulation With Endemic Genotype I: Implications for Pig Production

Irene Kasindi Meki ,¹ Adeyinka Jeremy Adedeji ,^{2,3} Laldia Bruno Ouoba ,^{4,5} Yao Mathurin Koffi ,⁶ Adama Diakité,⁷ Tirumala B. K. Settypalli ,¹



Structure and activities

- Four Interim leaders were nominated to lead the team (One each from East, Central, Southern, & West Africa)
- Currently, we have elected leaders (elected in July 2025 for a 2-year tenure)
 - Chairman: Pam Luka
 - Secretary: Tonny Kabuuka
 - Finance Director: Michel Dione
 - Scientific Director: Juanita van Emmenes
 - Collaboration Director: Casimir Ndongo
 - Communication Director: Joseph Ebanja



Activities

- ▶ We have activities such as:
 - ▶ scientific seminars
 - ▶ General assembly (December),
 - ▶ Engagement with stakeholders and partners (WOAH, AU-IBAR, FAO, IAEA, etc)
- ▶ Collaborative research:
- ▶ Sharing of experiences and competencies, for example, wildlife surveillance in Nigeria
- ▶ Training of National Laboratories



Membership of GAC (16)

- Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Carbo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia
- With different skills and competencies
- **Media and Visibility:**
 - LinkedIn
 - website
 - whatsapp
 - ToR

Africa's contribution

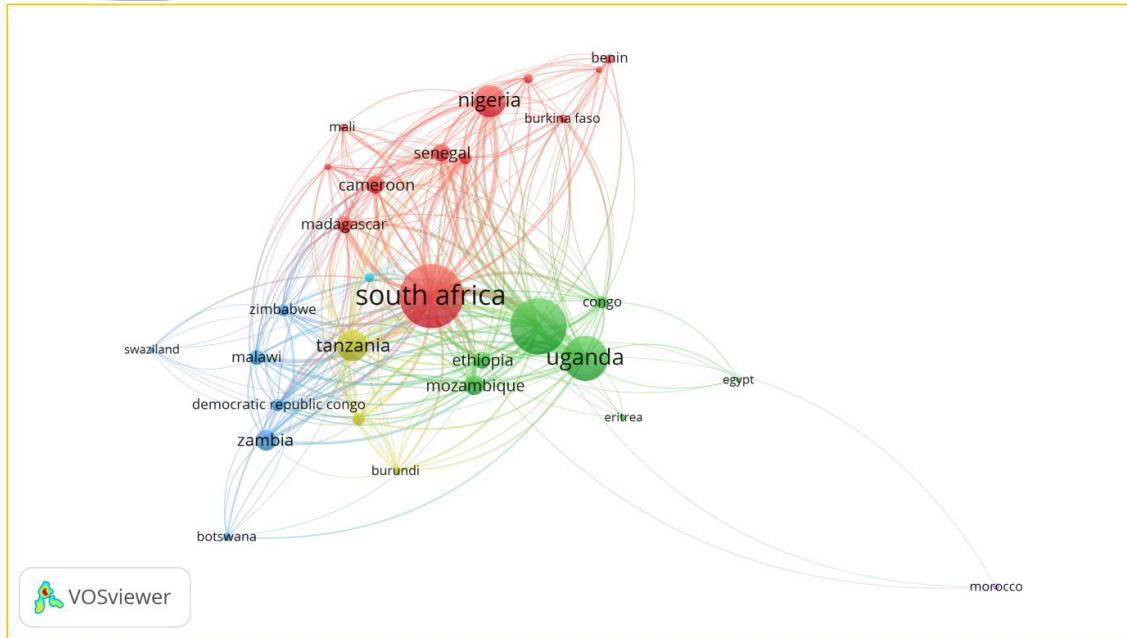


Figure 5: Contributions of African countries and their collaborative efforts in the 41 years of active ASF research

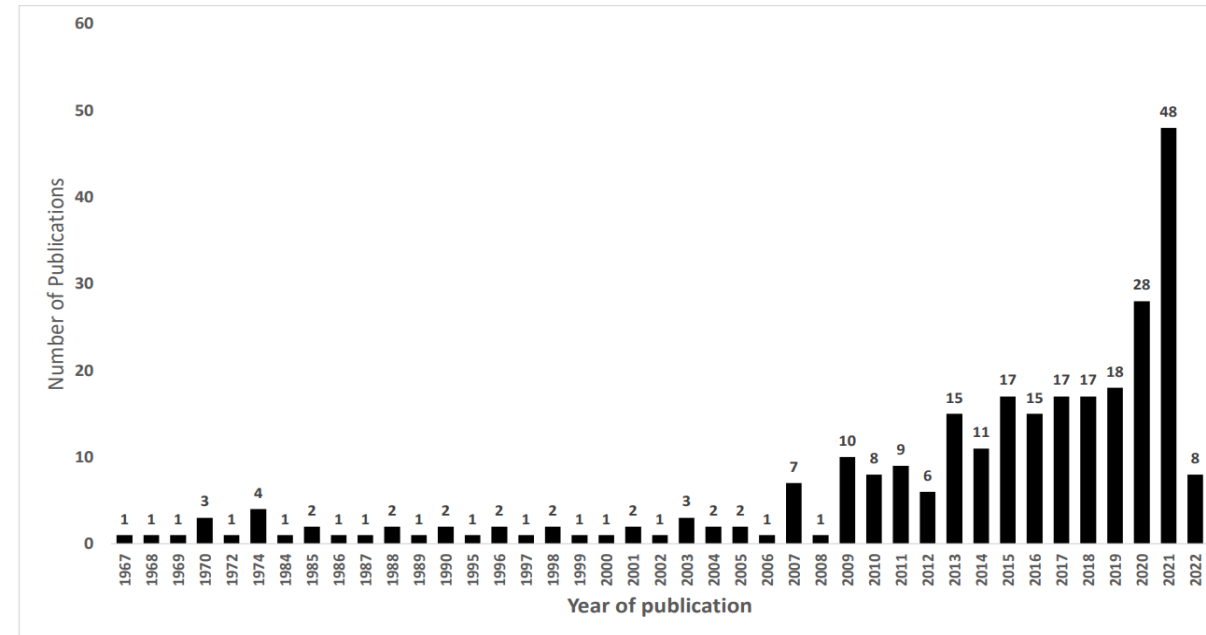


Figure 1: Publication growth rate in the 41 active years of the participation of African countries in ASF research from documents retrieved from Scopus database

Distribution and spread of the disease in Africa

(Penrith et al, 2022, Meki et al., 2024)

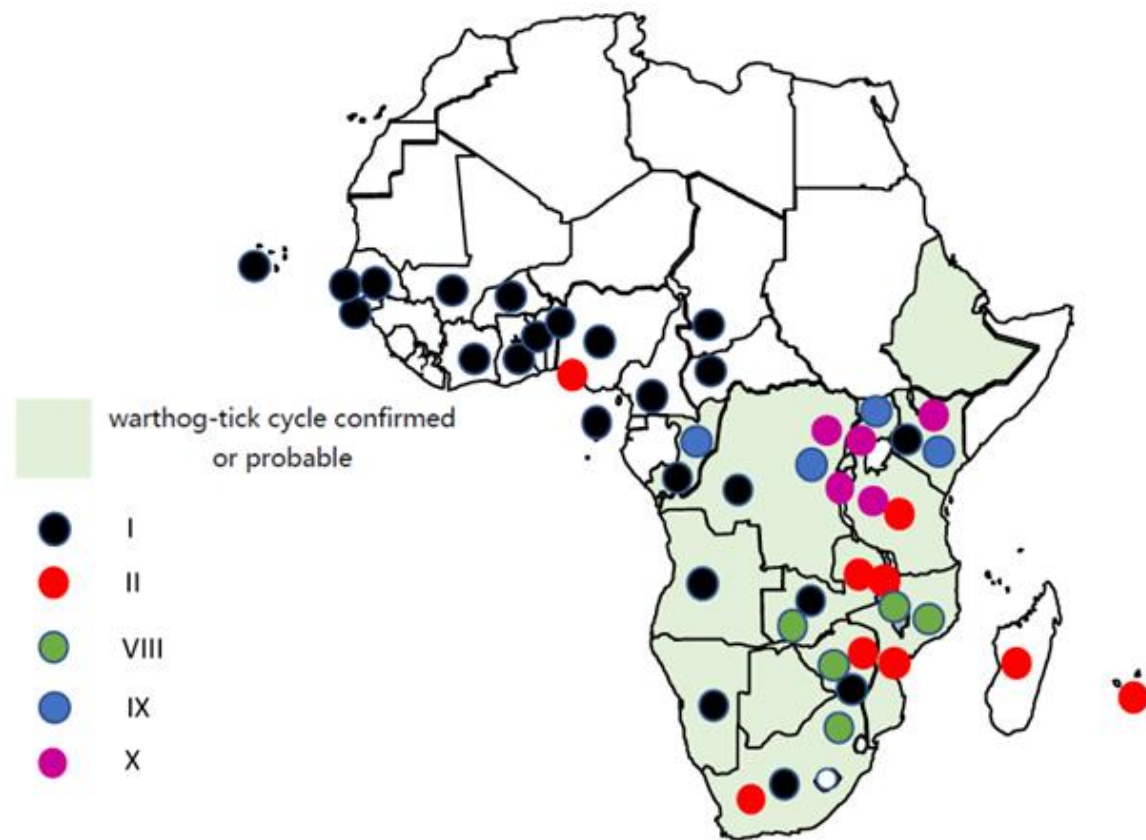


FIGURE 1: Map of West Africa highlighting the regions within the four countries with ASFV Genotype I (sky blue) and II (dark blue) outbreaks between 2017 and 2023.



Mapped activities of GAC: vaccine and vaccination

- ▶ Research & Development coordination
- ▶ Surveillance & monitoring
- ▶ Support standardization of vaccine evaluation methods
- ▶ Capacity building & training



Research & Development coordination:

- GAC is supporting internal and external research among its members and across borders to provide comprehensive and regional application to partners and stakeholders such as SGE, CVOs etc
- Cataloguing African ASFV genotypes (I, II, IX, etc.)
- Supporting vaccine research
- Establishing reference laboratories & regional activities (e.g. trials..)
- Promoting open data sharing for ASFV sequences



Surveillance and monitoring across Africa:

- ▶ Given the diversity of skills and competencies among members and across regions
- ▶ Encourages national and regional collaboration, given the fact that it's a transboundary animal disease
- ▶ Domestic and wildlife surveillance
- ▶ Vector surveillance
- ▶ Management and biosecurity practices
- ▶ Investment in diagnostics
- ▶ **Encourage regional and international collaboration**



Standardization of vaccine evaluation methods, policy, regulatory harmonization

- ▶ Encourages African participation in global ASF vaccine trials
- ▶ Harmonized safety & efficacy assessment
- ▶ Coordinates multi-country vaccine evaluations
- **Sharing information with National and international bodies:** CVOs, WOA, AU-IBAR etc
- ▶ Support policy formulation through research output and findings
- ▶ Supporting African Union & national governments in **ASF** control policies
- ▶ Working with PANVAC for vaccine certification



Capacity building & training

- **Training and capacity building:** Virtually through scientific forums and making use of the WOAHA Reference Lab of ASF at OVI and other National Labs
 - FAO LMT, FAO VLC, IAEA training, WOAHA Training/twinning, etc
 - Training workshops for African researchers
 - Improving biosafety and biocontainment practices
 - Networking early-career scientists across Africa
 - Diagnostic strengthening (molecular, serological)
- GAC supports training and retraining of national laboratory staff and capacity building, encourage knowledge sharing, and material and reagents sharing



Potential funding opportunities for vaccine research

Area of vaccine development, diagnostics, surveillance, and animal experimentation

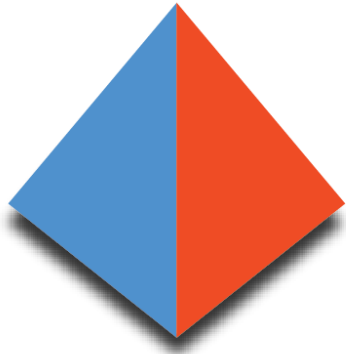
- ▶ European Commission: Funding through EUREXES Africa, HORIZON, etc
- ▶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: Research Funding
- ▶ IAEA (Joint FAO-IAEA Lab): Diagnostics and Surveillance
- ▶ WOA: Documentation and standardization
- ▶ ILRI: Vaccine development



- ▶ OVI: Diagnosis and Animal Experiment
- ▶ Sino-Africa Joint Research Centre, CAS: Research
- ▶ STAR-IDAZ International Research Consortium on Animal Health
- ▶ Foreign government programmes
- Africa: AU-BAR, AU,
- Regional bodies: ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD etc



THANK YOU



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

Africa



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

