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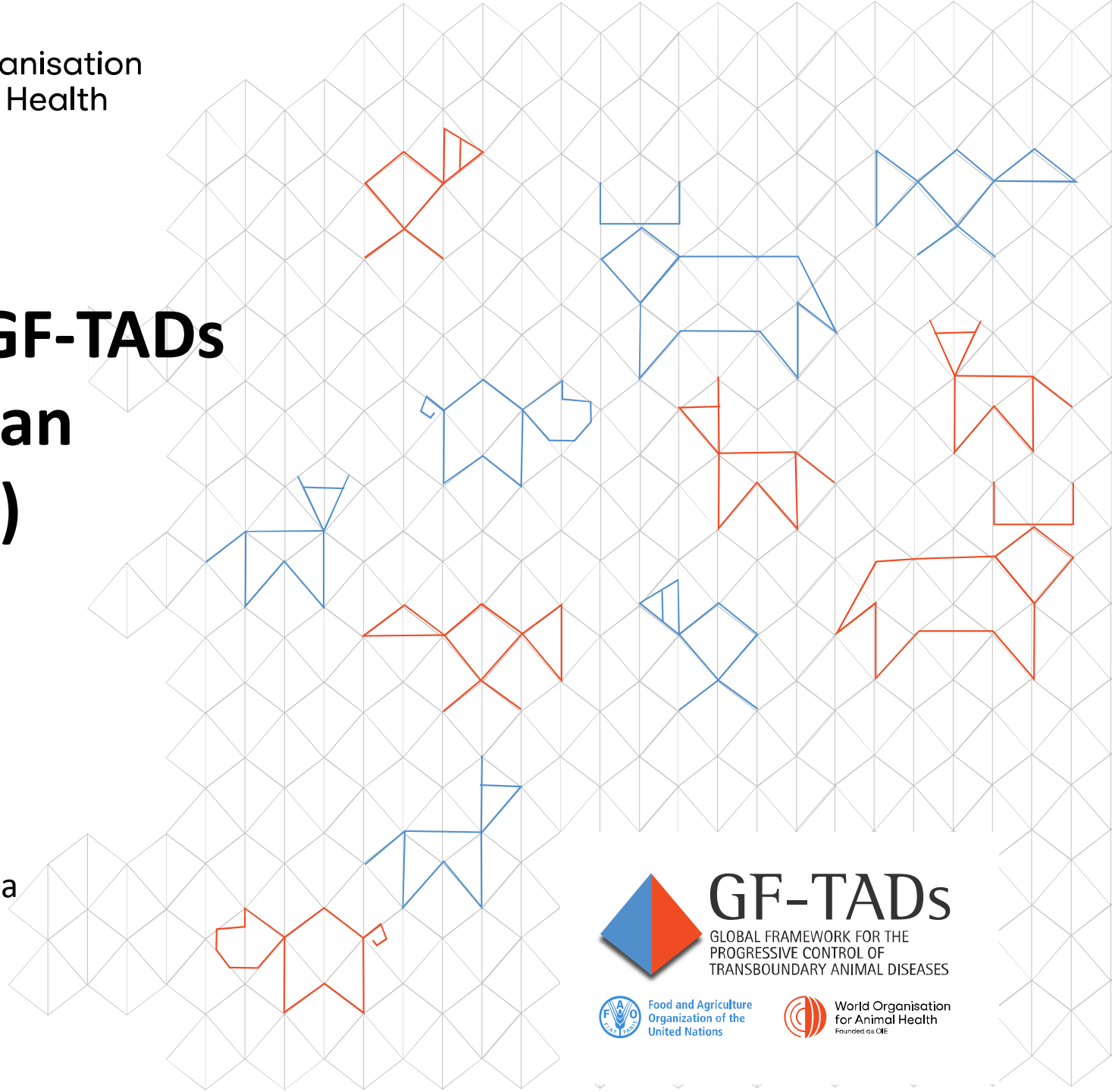
Five-year review of the GF-TADs Global Initiative on African swine fever (2020–2025)

The GF-TADs Africa RSC13 meeting
Abuja, Nigeria
10–12 November 2026

Andriy Rozstalnyy, Gregorio Torres, Akiko Kamata, Viola Chemis, Ronald Mora Castillo, Nicolas Winter



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

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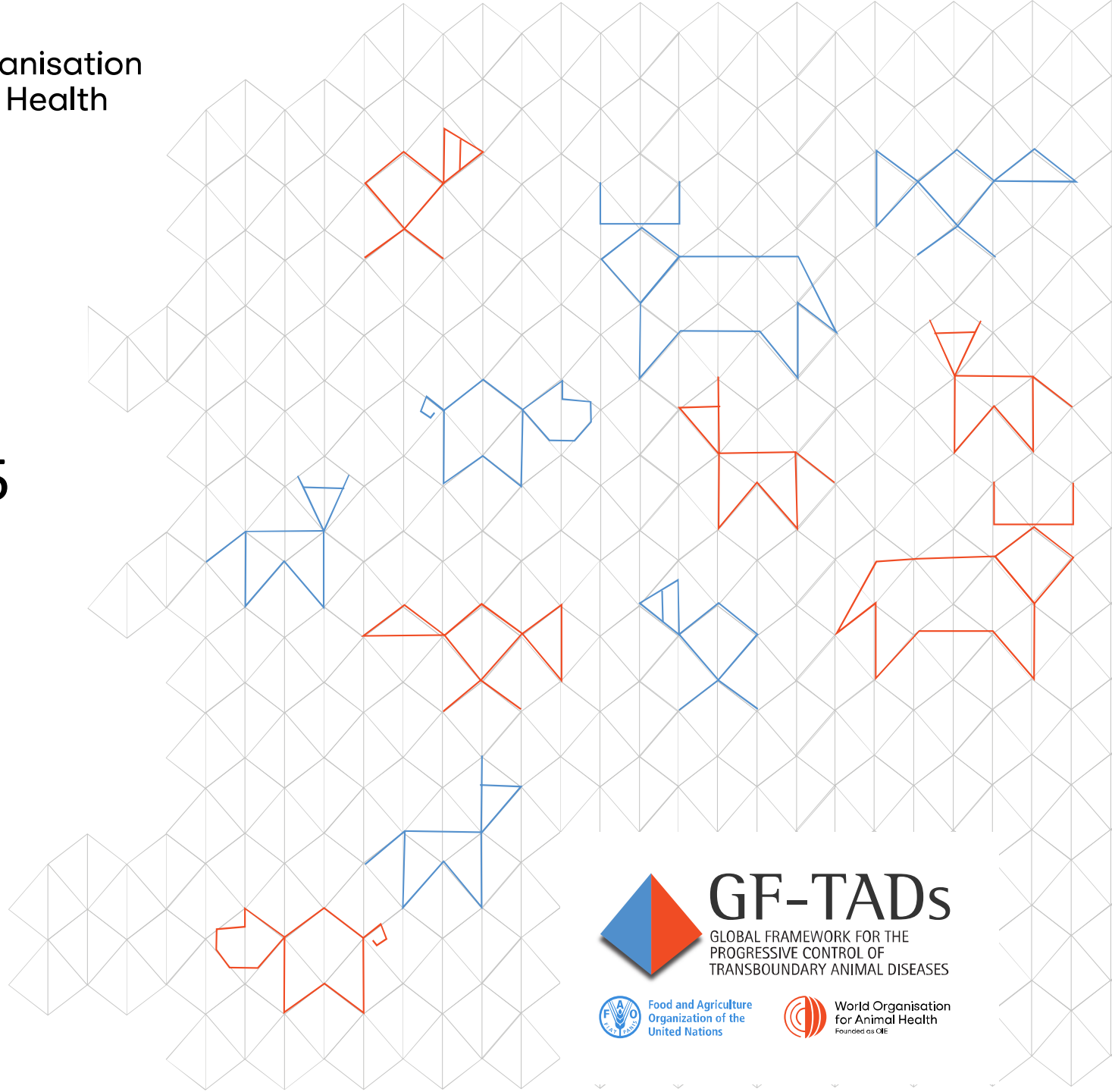
- Key achievements of the Global Initiative 2020-2025
- Lessons learnt
- Remaining gaps



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GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

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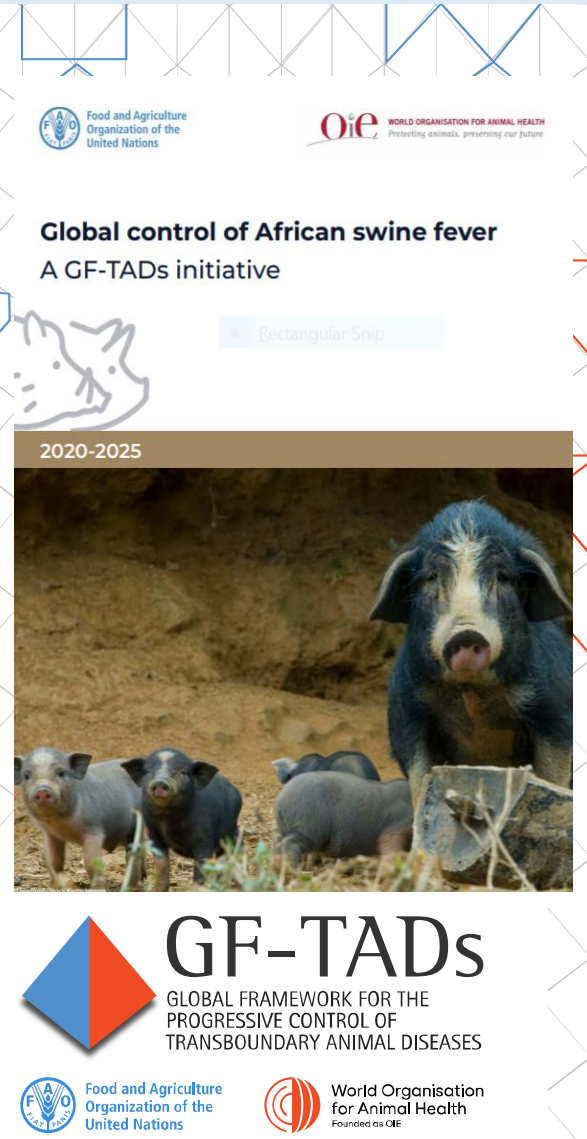
- **GI is a framework to ensure synergies and good coordination.**
- **A 6-year (2020–2025) strategic plan with defined objectives, outputs, outcomes and indicators**
  - **Objective 1.** Improve the **capability of countries** to control (prevent, respond, eradicate) ASF
  - **Objective 2.** Establish **coordination and cooperation** framework
  - **Objective 3.** Facilitate **business continuity**.
- **Role of ASF WG:** coordinate, M&E the implementation of the GF-TADs Global Initiative



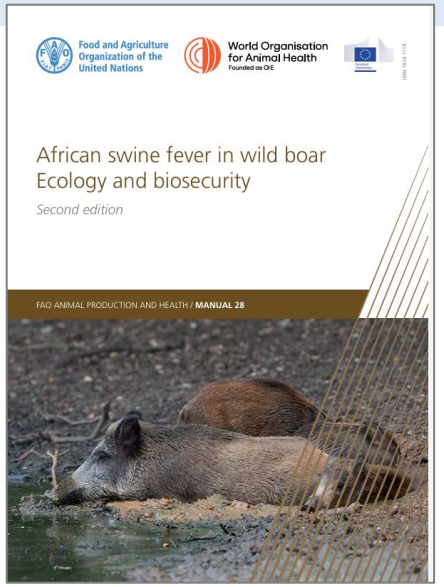
Objective 1. Improve capability of countries to control ASF

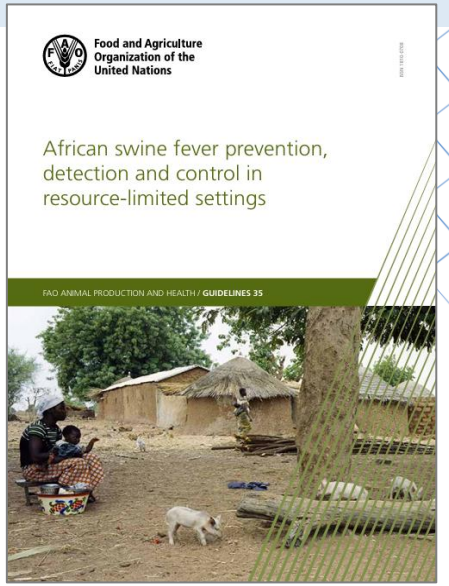
- Support in development, revision and implementation of national and regional strategies for ASF control (regional strategies for Africa and ASEAN).
- Adaptation of the PVS tool to facilitate the assessment of the Veterinary Services to control ASF and the strengthen national and regional capacities through development and roll-out of ASF preparedness, prevention and response
- Strengthening of risk assessment capacities (Africa, Americas, Asia).
- Development and promotion of innovative evidence-based biosecurity improvement solutions based on co-creation methodology e.g. the Progressive Management Pathway for Terrestrial Animal Biosecurity (PMP-TAB), addressing challenges of resource-limited pig production and pork value chains.

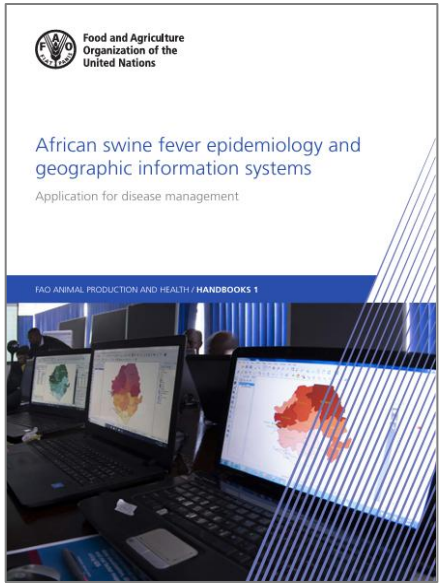
Main achievements expected impacts and lessons learnt

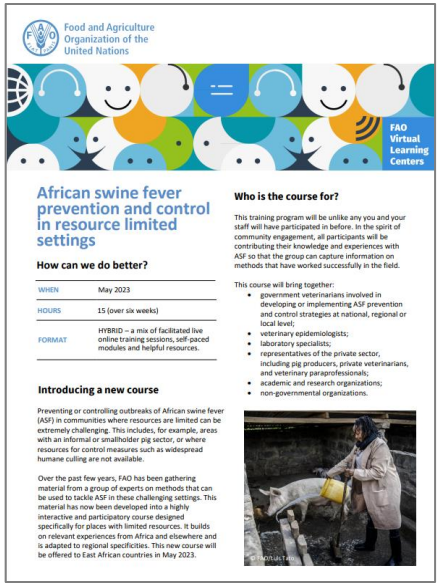
Objective 1. Improve capability of countries to control ASF

- Enhanced capacities on surveillance, diagnostics, outbreak control, biosecurity through guidelines and trainings on ASF prevention and control targeting resource-limited settings (global and Africa) and small holders in Asia.
- Laboratory support: PoC (rapid) test, diagnostic algorithm manual.
- Vaccine & vaccination: WOAH standard and webinars.
- Emergency preparedness and response trainings in free-countries (LAC)
- Increased awareness actions at field level.









Objective 2. Establish effective coordination and cooperation - to foster policy dialogue and applied research

- Global Coordination Committee (GCC) meetings 2023-2025
- 4 Regional Standing Group of Experts on ASF (Europe, Americas, Asia and Africa)
- Global consultations on ASF – December 2024 FAO HQs: policy makers, industry, researchers
- Research coordination: GARA Scientific Meeting – Rome, Italy FAO HQs April 2025, GARA Africa Chapter



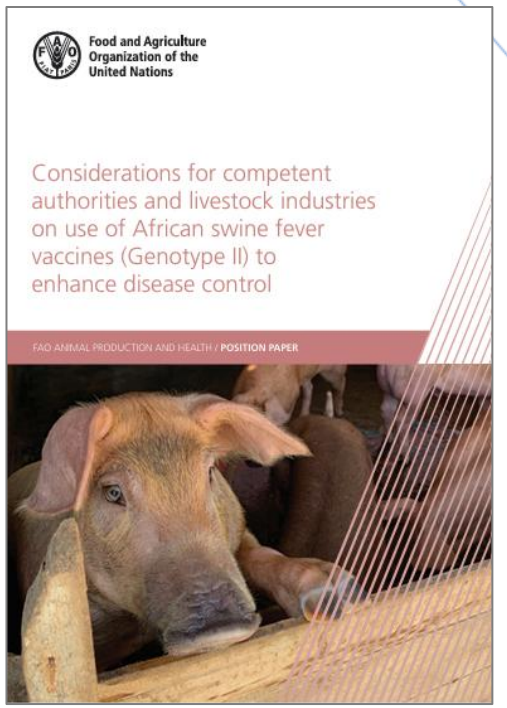




Objective 3. Facilitate business continuity

- Promotion zoning and compartmentalisation principles, risk management at the wild-domestic interface aligned with WOAH standards to support safe trade.
- Fostering public-private partnerships within pig value chains.
- Advanced the normative framework for ASF vaccines, including vaccine evaluation guidance, development of standards for safe and effective ASF vaccines and its adoption in May 2025 of the first WOAH Terrestrial Manual section on ASF vaccines.
- Published position paper to outline considerations that competent veterinary authorities and pig value chain stakeholders should consider in the development and implementation of an ASF vaccination strategy after the approval/registration of safe and effective ASF vaccines
- The **GF-TADs Lomé Declaration 2025**—adopted following the 5th Standing Group of Experts meeting on African Swine Fever (ASF) in Lomé, Togo—highlights major safety and operational risks regarding current ASF vaccines across the African continent





Lessons learnt on the GI implementation

- Strong global coordination is essential but must remain flexible (adapting to local contexts, production systems, and resources.
- Regional Standing Groups of Experts (SGEs) improved: information sharing, harmonization of measures and coordinated responses across borders.
- National capacity of veterinary services is the cornerstone. Policies must be context-adapted, especially for smallholders and informal pig sectors.
- Capacity-building efforts (training, laboratory strengthening, risk analysis, preparedness courses) improved readiness but needs to be sustained.
- Improving farm-level and value chain biosecurity is the single most impactful and cost-effective intervention. The co-design/co-creation methodologies is essential for sustainability of biosecurity improvement programmes (PMP-TAB).

Lessons learnt on the GI implementation

- ASF control cannot be achieved by veterinary services alone, it requires a multi-sectoral and value-chain approach.
- Technical solutions are insufficient without effective risk communication and incentives to change human behaviour.
- ASF prevention and control programmes must balance disease control with livelihood protection and business continuity.
- Despite of progress with development of vaccines there is still concern on safety, potency, efficacy of live vaccines attenuated by gene-deletion.
- Substandard and illicit vaccines caused emergence of recombinant genotype (I/II) in part of Asia further complicating surveillance and control of ASF.

Main challenges and remaining gaps identified for the effective prevention and control

- Enzootic circulation and spread to new countries:
  - Risk factors: Human mediated spread, lack of biosecurity, swill feeding, wild and free ranging pigs

- Surveillance
  - Competing priorities (HPAI, FMD, limited resources).
  - Low virulent strains, recombinants I/II strain.
  - Delayed detection and notification.
  - Differential diagnosis (Syndromic surveillance) + potential use of rapid kits.

- Control measures based on stamping out measures affecting *farmers trust* (compensation delays and repeated losses erode), *animal welfare*-serious ethical concerns, management of carcasses disposal and public opposition.

- Vaccination - despite of authorization and use of gene-deleted live attenuated vaccines against ASF, there are still uncertainties regarding the safety and efficacy of vaccines. These live attenuated vaccines were designed for genotype II while recombinant I/II strain dominates in several ASF enzootic Asian countries.
- Insufficient capacities to adopt international standards at national level to ensure delivery of national prevention and control programmes in systematic and full
- Private sector engagement - What is the role of private sector and how to leverage it to improve ASF control