GF-TADs Africa

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

African
Union

RSC 13

Outcomes of the 5th meeting of the SGE for ASF (October 2025) including the Lomé Declaration

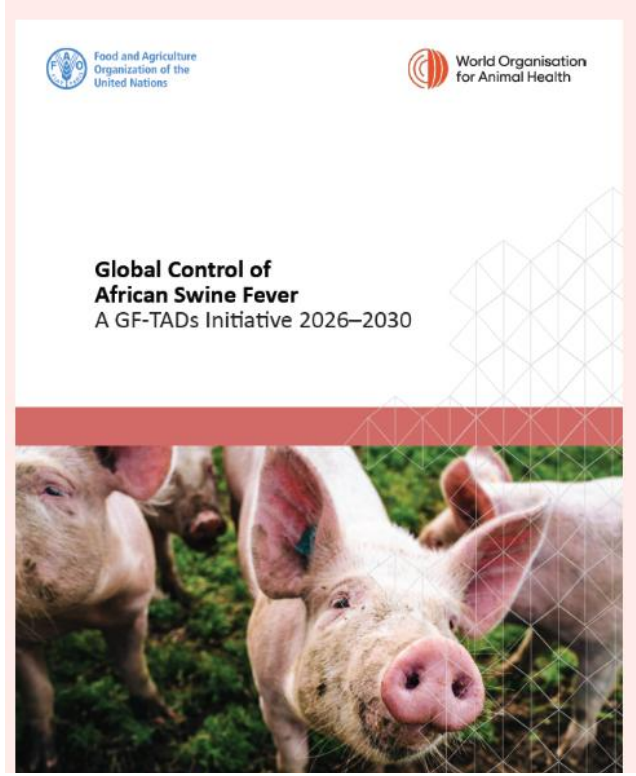
Viola Chemis, Patrick Bastiaensen, WOAH

Regional Secretariat - Africa

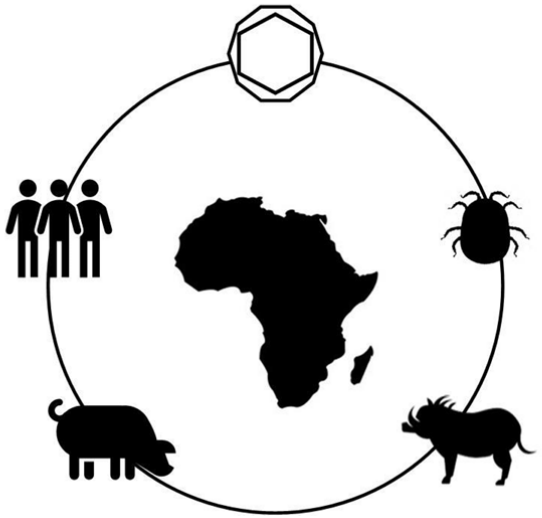
RSC 13

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

- The ***Global Initiative*** (GI) = **coordination** at **regional** and **global** levels ;
- Key to enhance national control programmes against ASF
- ***Standing Group of Experts*** **(SGE)** platform - allows countries with similar socio-economic and epidemiological situations to **share information**, challenges and best practices, discuss **regional solutions** and approaches to **enhancing control**.
- *Terms of reference* (**ToR**) - SGE for ASF (for Africa) adopted during the 10th *Regional Steering Committee* (RSC) meeting for Africa, held in Nairobi, in October **2021**
- SGE ASF guides technical aspects of ASF control at national and regional levels
- Inaugural meeting held online in March **2022** (over 2 days)
- Generated a list of technical topics to guide the series of subsequent meetings



Regional strategy for the control of African swine fever in Africa

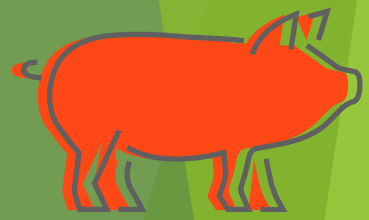


AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

List of topics

Topic	Objective	DATE/VENUE/FORMAT
1. **Value Chains**	• Understanding the **production** features and pig/pork **value chains** in Africa	21 – 22 September 2022, Online
2. Biosecurity **3. Surveillance and Diagnostics**	• Strengthen **biosecurity** for the control of ASF along the value chain • Enhanced **surveillance** and **diagnostic capabilities** for ASF control:	01 – 03 August 2023, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire/hybrid
4. **Outbreak Management**	• Outbreak response **capability** and **capacity** for ASF control	15-17 October 2024, Online
5. **ASF vaccines and vaccination**	• An exchange on status of ASF vaccines and vaccination efforts	14 October 2025, Lome, Togo

Take Home Messages



SGE 2 & 3: Biosecurity, Surveillance and Diagnostics

Most practical and immediate tools

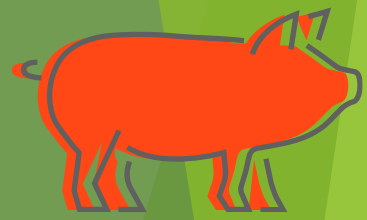
1. Stronger biosecurity: reaffirmed as the **cornerstone** of ASF control, strengthen measures across pig value chains
2. Community-based approaches: **smallholder and backyard systems**, recognizing that sustainable ASF control requires farmer engagement, self-regulation, incentives, and locally adapted solutions
3. Countries agreed to **strengthen surveillance** and **diagnostic capacity**, including genomic sequencing, point-of-care testing, participation in reference laboratory networks, and improved reporting through WAHIS
4. Explore **compartmentalisation** to support business continuity in commercial farms

Principle: Biosecurity measures should be **acceptable** and **practically applicable**.

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

Take Home Messages

SGE 4: Outbreak Management



1. **Strengthened** focus on **national outbreak management capacity**, including preparedness, response planning, depopulation, disposal, decontamination, movement control, and quarantine measures.
2. Recognition of the **importance of compensation** and **financial incentives** (restocking schemes, insurance mechanisms, compensation plans) to improve disease reporting and outbreak response by farmers.
3. Promotion of **community engagement** and **risk communication** as essential components of ASF control, particularly in smallholder and resource-limited production systems.
4. Identification and sharing of **innovative outbreak management approaches**, including **modified stamping-out, partial culling**, improved carcass disposal, decontamination methods, and early detection/reporting systems adapted to African contexts

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

SGE 5: ASF Vaccines and Vaccination

Why Vaccines and Vaccination:

- Several vaccine candidates emerging globally and countries require guidance on their safe use
- SGE sought to establish a common African position on ASF vaccines
- Topics covered:

i. ASF epidemiology and control status in Africa

ii. Global and African developments in ASF vaccines

iii. WOAH standards for vaccine quality, safety and efficacy

iv. Risks and opportunities of ASF vaccination

v. Development of a common African position on vaccines

vi. Research, surveillance, biosecurity and future regional priorities



SGE 5: ASF Vaccines and Vaccination

- Persistent challenges - weak surveillance, limited lab capacity, informal pig movements, poor biosecurity, absence of effective vaccines
- Aspiration for Africa in 3-5 years: ‘’living with the disease” - progressively **strengthening surveillance**, **diagnostics**, **legislation**, **biosecurity**, **coordination**
- Vaccine development advancing rapidly
- WOAH standards adopted in 2025 for ASF vaccines
  - Vaccine safety requirements
  - Vaccine efficacy requirements
  - Manufacturing and quality standards
  - Field evaluation and post-vaccination monitoring requirements
- ASF vaccines should only be considered within framework **compliant** with **international standards** and **independent evaluation**

SGE 5: ASF Vaccines and Vaccination

Risks associated with ASF vaccination in Africa

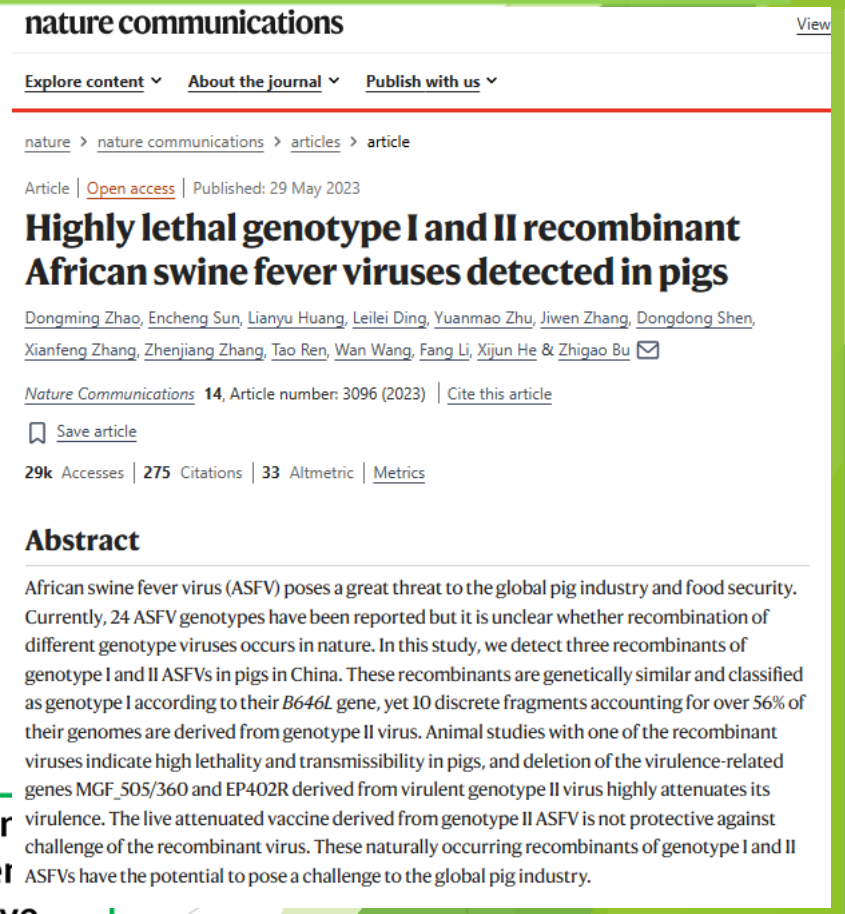
- Use of vaccines not adequately tested in African conditions
- Illegal or unregulated vaccine importation
- Reversion to virulence
- Recombination risks
- False confidence leading to reduced biosecurity
- Difficulties in disease surveillance after vaccination
- Limited protection against different ASF genotypes circulating in Africa

Vaccination can create additional risks if introduced without **strong veterinary oversight**, surveillance and biosecurity systems


Open Access Article

Genotype II Live-Attenuated ASFV Vaccine Strains Unable to Completely Protect Pigs against the Emerging Recombinant ASFV Genotype I/II Strain in Vietnam

by Nguyen Van Diep [1], Nguyen Van Duc [1], Nguyen Thi Ngoc [1], Vu Xuan Dang [1], Tran Ngoc Tiep [1], Viet Dung Nguyen [2], Thi Tam Than [3], Dustin Maydaniuk [4], Kalhari Goonewardene [4], Aruna Ambagala [4,*] and Van Phan Le [3,5,*]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Article | Open access | Published: 29 May 2023

Highly lethal genotype I and II recombinant African swine fever viruses detected in pigs

Dongming Zhao, Encheng Sun, Lianyu Huang, Leilei Ding, Yuanmao Zhu, Jiwen Zhang, Dongdong Shen, Xianfeng Zhang, Zhenjiang Zhang, Tao Ren, Wan Wang, Fang Li, Xijun He & Zhigao Bu

Nature Communications **14**, Article number: 3096 (2023) | Cite this article

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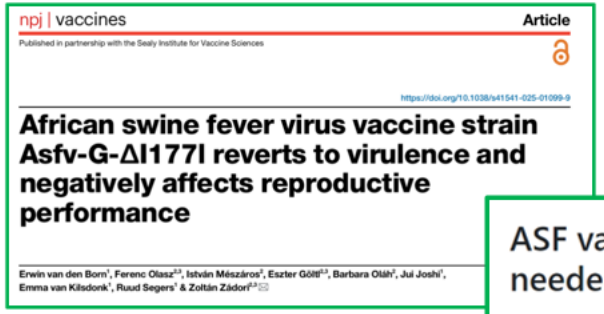
29k Accesses | **275** Citations | **33** Altmetric | Metrics

Abstract

African swine fever virus (ASFV) poses a great threat to the global pig industry and food security. Currently, 24 ASFV genotypes have been reported but it is unclear whether recombination of different genotype viruses occurs in nature. In this study, we detect three recombinants of genotype I and II ASFVs in pigs in China. These recombinants are genetically similar and classified as genotype I according to their *B646L* gene, yet 10 discrete fragments accounting for over 56% of their genomes are derived from genotype II virus. Animal studies with one of the recombinant viruses indicate high lethality and transmissibility in pigs, and deletion of the virulence-related genes MGF_505/360 and EP402R derived from virulent genotype II virus highly attenuates its virulence. The live attenuated vaccine derived from genotype II ASFV is not protective against challenge of the recombinant virus. These naturally occurring recombinants of genotype I and II ASFVs have the potential to pose a challenge to the global pig industry.

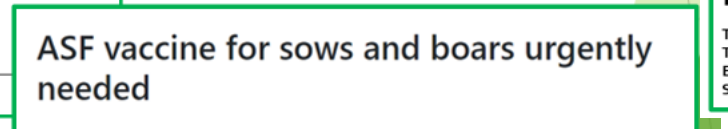

npj | vaccines Article

Published in partnership with the Sealy Institute for Vaccine Sciences

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41541-025-01099-9

African swine fever virus vaccine strain Asfv-G-ΔI177l reverts to virulence and negatively affects reproductive performance

Erwin van den Born[1], Ferenc Olasz[2,3], István Mészáros[2], Eszter Göltl[2,3], Barbara Oláh[2], Jui Joshi[1], Emma van Kilsdonk[1], Ruud Segers[1] & Zoltán Zádori[2,3]


ASF vaccine for sows and boars urgently needed


An African swine fever vaccir like variant with multiple ger deletions caused reproductive failure in a Vietnamese breeding herd

Thanh Che Nguyen[1,2,4,11], Nga To Thi Bui[3,11], Lua Thi Nguyen[3], Tram Ngoc Thi Ngo[4], Cuong Van Nguyen[4], Luan Minh Nguyen[4], Janin Nouhin[5], Erik Karlsson[5], Pawin Padungtod[6], Nakarin Pamornchainavakul[7], Sawang Kesdangsakonwut[2,8,9], Roongroje Thanawongnuwech[2,10] & Duy Tien Do[4]

SGE 5: ASF Vaccines and Vaccination

- The diversity of ASF virus strains - **24 genotypes**
- Commercial vaccines genotype II
- Live attenuated vaccines
- **Virus shedding** from vaccinated pigs can occur, **adverse reactions**
- Need for vaccine development adapted to Africa epidemiology
- No DIVA
- Research & innovation priority - effective ASF control adapted to Africa

Africa takes a precautionary approach to ASF vaccination

LOME, TOGO

The GF-TADs Lome Declaration (2025) on vaccines and vaccination against African Swine Fever



Vaccination must complement, not replace, strong biosecurity and classical ASF control measures



ASF: WOAH VACCINE STANDARD

Minimum standards for safe and effective ASF vaccines

Multi-layered ASF control

↓

Successful disease management involves a **combination of biosecurity practices, import measures and animal movement control** to which **vaccines are a complementary action**.

World Organisation for Animal Health

Home » Articles » **African swine fever: WOAH vaccine standard adopted**

Article

African swine fever: WOAH vaccine standard adopted

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Centro de Investigación en Sanidad Animal (CISA), INIA-CSIC, Madrid, Spain

RSC 13

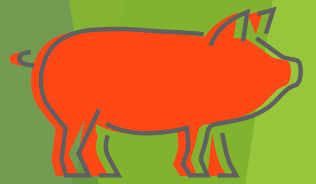
LOME DECLARATION

- Any vaccine use must be based on scientific evidence, risk assessment, demonstrated effectiveness in Africa
- ASF vaccines be assessed through AU-PANVAC and comply with WOAH standards before approval or deployment in any country
- Regional coordination needed on vaccine evaluation, registration, monitoring, communication and deployment strategies
- Research and collaboration
- Continental strategy for future ASF vaccine deployment
- Countries not to import or use unverified commercial ASF vaccines – National vigilance
- Vaccination is not a substitute for biosecurity and surveillance
- Strong surveillance, laboratory diagnosis, movement control, farm biosecurity remain the foundation of ASF control

The Lomé SGE concluded that **ASF vaccines** show promise but **not yet ready for deployment in Africa**

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

List of topics



Topic	Objective	DATE/VENUE
6. Socioeconomics	Regional ASF risk assessment and **socio-economic impact** for effective prevention, control and evidence-based advocacy	TBD
7. Cross-border	Official border control measures and informal cross-border transit and trade of pigs and pig products, leading to spread of ASF	TBD
8. Policy	Policy issues, control strategies and National and Regional Strategic Plans	TBD
9. Transparency	Outbreak response capability and capacity for ASF control	TBD

RSC 13

12th Regional Steering Recommendations (2025)

African swine fever (ASF)	13. To encourage Member(s) Countries/States to support and implement the Continental Strategy for the Control of *African swine fever* (ASF) as per the guidance and with the support of the SGE; 14. To encourage Member(s) Countries/States to ensure appropriate evaluation of any new vaccine through AU-PANVAC, based on WOAH standards (currently not available for ASF) before granting any authorization for its use or distribution;

GF-TADs Africa

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Organisation for Animal Health
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