



OUR FORWARD AGENDA



AFRICAN SWINE FEVER FORUM
FORUM DE LA PESTE PORCINE AFRICAINE
FORO DE LA PESTE PORCINA AFRICANA
 | 30 april · avril · abril – 1 may · mai · mayo 2019 |
OTTAWA, CANADA

The ASF Forum was held in Ottawa on April 30-May 1, 2019. The objective of the ASF Forum was to advance regional cooperation in the prevention and mitigation of the impact of ASF in the Americas. Discussions provided participants with an enhanced understanding of the important issues, allowing decision makers to focus their attention on regional collaborations to strengthen efforts to prevent and respond to an outbreak of ASF in the Americas.

2019–2020

- May 2, 2019:** Meeting of the Executive Board of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
- May 24, 2019:** Meeting of G7 CVOs
- May 26-31 2019:** 87th OIE General Session
- August, 2019:** North American Animal Health Committee meeting

KEY MESSAGES

1. In the Americas, countries are currently free of ASF, we have a **window of opportunity** to act decisively in coordinated manner.
2. We need to **leverage existing partnerships and governance** to advance work on ASF at every level – national, regional and global.
3. The **spread of this disease is human driven**, therefore, engagement and increased awareness among all stakeholders is required. This includes tailored approaches for hard to reach groups such as small scale producers, pet owners and hunters.
4. The **epidemiology of this disease is complex and unique**: the virus is capable of persisting in pork products and surviving in the environment. This requires rigorous approaches to border security, biosecurity and environmental decontamination.
5. **Consistent and thorough implementation of biosecurity measures** is required throughout the production continuum from feed and other service providers, producers, transporters, renderers, and processors.
6. A **better understanding of the wild pig populations** in each country and the Americas region as a whole is needed to characterize their epidemiological role in disease risk and establish effective population/ disease control strategies.
7. Zoning and compartmentalization are key tools to minimize trade disruptions and implementation depends on a **strong partnership between industry and veterinary services**, ideally agreed to in peace time.
8. The **real game changer for control and eradication would be a vaccine**. Partnerships are needed to support research to complete the development of an effective and safe vaccine for ASF.
9. The **response elements of destruction, disposal, and decontamination (3D) require critical focus** as part of preparedness planning.
10. **Consistent, co-ordinated**, (pre-determined where possible) **messaging** from trusted sources is critical during a disease event.

- ◆ Countries should develop a **national action plan** for ASF prevention and control reflective of their pork sector and risk pathways.
- ◆ Under GF-TADS Americas Committee, **establish a Standing Group of Experts on ASF for the Americas** to build closer cooperation among countries to address preparedness and response to the disease in a collaborative and harmonised manner:
 - The multidisciplinary group requires expertise in: communications, biosecurity, destruction, disposal and decontamination, wild pig control, arthropod vectors, border security, epidemiology, disease modelling and laboratory science.
- ◆ **Promote a regional partnership** to share reference material, laboratory services, transfer diagnostic capacity to facilitate early detection of ASF in the Americas, and to advance the development of new rapid diagnostics, including field testing
- ◆ **Conduct sub-regional exercises to test country preparedness plans for ASF** and share lessons learned across the region.
- ◆ **Request the OIE to develop specific guidance on the implementation of zoning and compartmentalization for ASF** and how to adapt these measures to different production systems.
- ◆ **Support and invest in the Global ASF Research Alliance to continue to coordinate international research efforts** to address gaps, in particular for the development a vaccine for ASF virus.





OBJECTIVE: To prevent entry and mitigate the impacts of ASF in the Americas

FOUR PILLARS FOR ACTION BASED ON A FOUNDATION OF SCIENCE ▼

PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

1

Expected outcome: Countries have a high state of readiness to swiftly control ASF should it enter the Americas region.

AREAS FOR ACTION

- Increase readiness by validating ASF preparedness plans and testing response capabilities through exercises involving all stakeholders.
- Find solutions to deficiencies in ASF response capabilities and planning gaps.
- Optimize rapid ASF detection in the Americas by ensuring capacity for surveillance.
- Develop the appropriate process and capacity for rapid risk assessment to identify risks for ASF and inform policy decision as situations evolve.
- Continue to collaborate internationally on critical ASF research with particular attention to the development of vaccines and other tools to prevent or respond to an ASF outbreak.

ENHANCED BIOSECURITY

2

Expected outcome: Key biosecurity measures are in place to prevent the entry of ASF into the domestic and wild pigs populations of the Americas, and mitigate its spread within these populations.

AREAS FOR ACTION

- Identify key threats, gaps, and best practices in national border biosecurity, including establishment of appropriate level of activity, informed by risk assessment.
- Establish coherent collaboration to ensure border authorities share intelligence and best practices to mitigate the entry.
- Foster collaboration and compliance to address biosecurity ensuring responsibilities of all stakeholders are identified.
- Involve stakeholders in government, industry, and academia to gain an understanding of the wild pigs populations, and share best management practices at borders and the interface with domestic pigs.

ENSURE BUSINESS CONTINUITY

3

Expected outcome: Mitigate the trade impacts of ASF on the swine sector, both nationally and internationally, while controlling and eradicating the disease.

AREAS FOR ACTION

- Ensure risk based movements of animals and animal products domestically to keep industry viable in the face of an outbreak.
- To provide guidance and technical support for the development of common standards for zone establishment to gain wider acceptance.
- Proactively negotiate the recognition of zoning approaches with trading partners to reduce impediments to trade.
- Work with international partners and the OIE to develop globally recognized and accepted guidance on the application of compartmentalization for ASF to gain wider acceptance, both in infected and uninfected countries.

COORDINATED RISK COMMUNICATIONS

4

Expected outcome: Effective risk communication on ASF with target audiences to encourage informed decision making, behaviour modification, and trust in governments and industry.

AREAS FOR ACTION

- Develop a consistent approach and strategies to communicating risk, adapted to the specific needs and circumstances, including disease status, of various countries.
- Identify or develop platforms and mechanisms for ongoing coordination of messaging and for sharing of communications-related information between countries.
- Establish mechanisms for monitoring public narrative on ASF to ensure information in media and social media is accurate.
- Develop notification protocols to update partners on disease status.



PARTNERSHIPS

Leverage existing partnerships or build new ones to engage stakeholders in areas which require collaboration to attain expeditious and responsive solutions to manage ASF. Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the partners in accordance with their respective mandate.



GOVERNANCE

Optimize the potential of existing governance mechanisms at international, regional, sub-regional and national levels to ensure effective coordination and co-operation among all parties to implement appropriate measures to achieve common objectives for the prevention and control of ASF.