**FINAL COMMUNIQUE**

**Consultation on the Regional strategy for the control of African swine fever (ASF) in Africa**

*Ouagadougou, 10-12 November 2015*

The consultation on the Regional strategy for the control of African swine fever (ASF) in Africa jointly organized by AU-IBAR and FAO took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 10th to 12th November 2015. The opening ceremony was presided by Mr. Josué Tamini, representative of his Excellency Mr. the Minister of Animal Resources for Burkina Faso in the presence of Mr. Rémy Courcier, Deputy-representative and representative of FAO in Burkina Faso, Dr. Hiver Boussini representative for AU-IBAR, Dr. Edward Okoth, representative for ILRI and Dr. Ouattara Director of Veterinary Services for Burkina Faso.

Thirty nine participants attended the meeting including Directors of Veterinary Services or their representatives for 16 countries of West, East Central and South Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, RD Congo, Ethiopia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Togo, CAR, Chad, Zambia et Zimbabwe) and Laboratory Directors of Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Côte d’Ivoire, RD Congo and Ethiopia, as well as pig value chains actors groups/associations from Burkina Faso. Experts from FAO (Regional Office for West Africa, sub-regional office for Central Africa, ECTAD Central, West and East Africa), AU-IBAR, ILRI, OIE and AU-PANVAC.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- To examine and validate the regional strategy for the control of ASF in Africa;
- To examine and validate the action plan for the implementation of the strategy;
- To consolidate the continental program for the control of ASF

During 3 days meeting, the participants were updated on current situation of the disease and discussed and approved the meeting agenda around 4 sessions as follow:

**Session 1: Set-up**

- Presentation and adoption of the meeting agenda
- Objectives of the meeting
- Presentation of the ASF Taskforce

**Session 2: Current situation, constraints and priorities for ASF in Africa control**

- Updates of the current situation of ASF in Africa, epidemiology and control
- Epidemiology and control of ASF in West Africa
- Epidemiology and control of ASF in South Africa
- Epidemiology and control of ASF in Central Africa
- Epidemiology and control of ASF in East Africa
- Regional strategy for the control of ASF
• Group work on the regional strategy for the control of ASF

**Session 3: Initiatives for the control of ASF**

• ASF East African Working Group
• Research activities on ASF in East Africa
• Diagnostic tools for ASF
• Case studies: management of ASF outbreaks in Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire and Uganda

**Session 4: Control programme**

• Global Alliance for ASF and other international initiatives
• Risk management in small-holder pig value chains through improved capacity, Prevention, Detection and Response (PDR)
• Presentation of the action plan for the control of ASF
• Group work on the ASF control program

Participants acknowledged the increasing pig production in Africa and its contribution to food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation. Participants also exchanged knowledge on current pig production systems dominated by extensive production types with low input and output. However, minimal initiatives toward intensification with introduction of improved breeds were noted to be mentioned at country levels. In current dominant small-holder systems, producers have low access to inputs and there is high disease burden mainly ASF, which leads to low productivity of the pig farming.

Participants noted several constraints in the control of ASF at country levels. Among these constraints figured: poor practices and human behaviours, weak control measures, free ranging systems, lack of vaccine, low reporting of outbreak by producers, informal marketing between countries, lack of implementation of control strategies, absence of compensation of producers after loses of their pigs following ASF outbreak, lack of sensitization, lack of rapid response, weak veterinary services and their reporting systems, policy and institutional issues, lack of involvement of all value chain actors and stakeholders in the discussions during planning of the ASF control strategy, lack of knowledge of value chain actors on biosecurity and basic ASF control measures, negligence of the population towards the disease which is usually endemic in most regions.

The participants learnt and discussed the regional strategy for the control of ASF developed by ILRI, FAO and AU-IBAR.

After 2 days of successful discussions and deliberations, participants re-confirmed their engagement in equipping themselves of tools for the control of ASF, and validated the regional strategy for the control of ASF which was suggested to them.

In the perspective of ownership and proper implementation of the two documents by countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), participants agreed on the following:

1. **On the situation, constraints and priorities in the control of ASF**

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1 Diagnostic and surveillance; Biosecurity, disease management, sensitization and communication, Research, Policy and Legislation; Coordination, partnership and resource mobilization
Considering

- The importance of the pig value chain and its impact on food security, nutrition and resilience for vulnerable population towards poverty alleviation;
- The lack of statistics on pig value chain for socio-economic studies at country level;
- The constraints faced by countries in the prevention and control of ASF;
- Joint initiative between FAO, ILRI and AU-IBAR in establishing the regional strategy for the control of ASF;

Participants recommended

To countries and RECs

- To support a regional approach for the prevention and control of ASF, and adopt the regional strategy for the control of ASF in Africa

To countries

- To update and review the pig value chains;
- To assess the socio-economic impact of ASF.

To FAO, AU-IBAR, ILRI and OIE

- Assist countries to assess the socio-economic impact of ASF and review the pig value chains

2. On the strategy for the control of ASF

Considering

- The need to have a joint vision of the control of ASF in Africa, where ASF constraints pig production and compromises sustainable rural development;
- The need to have a coherent and well-coordinated action plan focused on reducing the impact of ASF on the pig sector in Africa, then i) promote a viable pig production; ii) improve resilience of all value chain actors, particularly poor people through improved production, increased income and access to nutrition;
- The different components of the regional strategy established by FAO, ILRI and AU-IBAR which include; i) Diagnostic and surveillance; ii) Biosecurity and disease management; iii) Sensitization and communication; iv) Research; v) Legislation and policy;
- The existence of the economic and technical regional platforms represented by RECs, the networks for epidemiological surveillance, the diagnostic veterinary laboratories, and the regional laboratories;
- The action plan for the fight against ASF established jointly by AU-IBAR, FAO and ILRI to which the principal determinants are i) the characteristics and dynamics of pig value chains, ii) the risk factors for ASF involved in the control and surveillance, iii) the legal and political environments and partnerships.

The participants recommended
For the surveillance and diagnostic of ASF

To countries and RECs

- To strengthen the intervention capacities of the veterinary services through recruitment of technical staffs, training, restructuration of the chain of commands and set-up of financial resources strategies and logistics;
- To update and ensure the applicability of the legal texts and policies that govern epidemiologic surveillance;
- To set-up a budget with resources provided by states for the surveillance of ASF;
- To equip national and regional laboratories with material and human resources in order to facilitate proper laboratory testing.

To the veterinary services

- To involve private veterinarians, pig value chain associations, and other stakeholders in the operation of the epidemi-surveillance networks;
- To strengthen competencies of the actors in the epidemi-surveillance networks including private veterinarians, producers associations and any other relevant stakeholder along the pig value chain;
- To set-up and implement a surveillance plan for ASF (event-based surveillance);
- To strengthen surveillance at the slaughter points and borders between countries.

To FAO, AU-IBAR, ILRI, AU-PANVAC, AIEA, OIE and other specialized competent institutions:

- Depending on each institution’s mandate and competencies, assist countries in operationalization of surveillance networks including national and regional laboratories;
- To facilitate the acquisition of consumables and reagents for national and regional laboratories.

On biosecurity

*Aux Services Vétérinaires*

- Promote progressive transformation of extensive production types (free range) to controlled system types through sensitization of producers on the advantages of confinement (feeding, health, etc...).
- To stop pig and pig products movements from infected areas to non-infected areas;
- Established training modules related to health and biosecurity;
- To suggest affordable housing types (using locally available material and technology) depending on the type of systems adopted;
- Set-up and strengthen systems for movement control of value chain actors and their animals;
- Set-up appropriate systems for waste management at farm level.

On the management of the disease

To countries
• To set-up compensation mechanisms related to stamping out including the creation of compensation funds and adopt policies related to its operation.

**To veterinary services**

• To strengthen reporting mechanism and tools for the notification of the disease;
• To survey and update a database of all value chain actors (producers, traders, butchers, etc.)

**On the sensitization and communication**

**To veterinary services**

• To advocate at the policy level, development partners and authorities in charge of implementation of ASF agenda;
• Develop and set-up a communication plan and identify specific communication tools (messages, prospectus, sketches, films, etc.) depending on type of target audience (producers, police officers, media and consumers).

**On research**

**To countries**

• Implement socio-anthropologic studies along the pig value chains to assess the involvement of each actor.

**To FAO, AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, ILRI, OIE and AIEA**

• Assist countries in updating socio-economic information on pig value chains and assess the impact of ASF in respective countries;
• Accelerate research on pen-side tests;
• Initiative and support in-country research on the epidemiological of ASF;
• Initiate and support pig value chain work using value chain approach developed by ILRI in Uganda;
• Accelerate vaccine research;
• Genetic characterization of pigs in Africa and creation of regional gene banks.

**On legislation and policy**

**To countries**

• Formulate relevant policies for the prevention and control of ASF;
• Involve all actors in the process of developing and implementing policies;
• Formulate policies taking into account the interest of the poor and vulnerable population.

**To RECs**

• To proceed to the harmonization of policies related to the control of ASF at the borders.

**On the coordination**
To RECs

- To strengthen and operationalize regional animal health networks and their working groups on ASF.

To countries

- Include ASF in their list of priority diseases

To AU-IBAR and RECs

- To strengthen coordination of the fight against ASF at continental level.

On partnership

To country members, UA-IBAR, RECs and animal health networks

- Establish/strengthen partnership at all levels to promote synergies;
- Establish a development platform for the pig value chain.

To FAO, OIE, ILRI, UA-BIRA

- Organize an international conference on ASF in Africa in 2016.

On resources mobilization

To the attendees of the meeting

- To form groups for advocacy and feedback to competent authorities in respective countries in order to encourage national dynamics toward the control of ASF.

To countries and RECs

- Develop advocacy for the set-up of appropriate funding frameworks.

To member countries, UA-IBAR, ILRI, FAO and RECs

- To lead joint formulation and planning of projects and programs for the control of ASF.

On the compensation

To countries

- To present a contingency plan for ASF;
- To develop policies and appropriate compensation measures;
- To facilitate/strengthen the set-up of in the pig value chain actors in associations.

To pig value chain actors

- To register their farms and productions;
- To get organized in associations/groups and/or cooperative in order to lobby for the pig sector.
To veterinary services

- To establish repertory and mapping of pig farms;
- To enforce sanitary measures in traditional production systems in order to reduce the prevalence of the diseases including selective stamping out

Done in Ouagadougou le 12 November 2015

The participants