

Conclusions of the First Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts (SGE) on African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Americas

Under the framework of the GF-TADs, the First Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in the Americas, (GPE-PPA); took place on 3 and 4 December, organised by the Regional Representation of the OIE for the Americas, with the financial and logistical support of the Republic of Colombia.

Considering the urgent need to take proactive, concrete and coordinated measures to prevent the introduction of ASF into the Americas, the objective of the meeting was to develop recommendations in relation to border control for the prevention of the introduction of ASF.

The SGE-ASF plays a crucial role in developing the above-mentioned recommendations for its Member Countries to forge closer cooperation among countries, addressing disease prevention, preparedness and response in a collaborative and harmonized manner throughout the Americas.

Dr. Gregorio Torres of the OIE presented a brief summary of the world situation of the disease, at the same time that he presented the [Global initiative to control ASF](#) in which he highlighted that it seeks to establish improvements and harmonization and close coordination of actions at national, regional and global levels.

Dr. Christopher Oura, an expert on African swine fever, commented on the mechanisms of transmission of the disease and the main associated risk factors, as well as prevention measures at the point of entry into the country, including random luggage inspections.

The participation of regional international organizations such as [OIRSA](#), [SG CAN](#), and [IICA](#) has contributed positively to share and replicate the discussion in order to assist countries in future implementations of the Recommendation arising from this First Meeting of the Permanent Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in the Americas Region.

Priority actions for upcoming meetings:

- Risk of introduction and risk of dispersion both at regional level and in each of the countries:

It has been defined that in the next meeting to be held on April 16 and 17 in Bogota, presentations will be made by Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Canada and OIRSA.

- Emergency Preparedness
 - Surveillance
 - Early detection
 - Emergency funds and compensation mechanisms
- Business Continuity
- ..The role of wild and feral pigs.
- Standardization of laboratory tests - follow-up to Mexico meeting 3-6 Dec 2019..

A Recommendation was adopted and is available to Member Countries in the Americas.

- For More Information:
- - Read the Press Release about the meeting: <https://rr-americas.oie.int/en/news/experts-meet-in-early-december-to-prevent-african-swine-fever/>
- - visit the photo album of the meeting on Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/oie-photos/albums/72157712160754407>
- - Find out about the creation of the Standing Expert Group: <https://rr-americas.oie.int/en/news/a-new-group-of-experts-has-been-created-to-prevent-the-entry-of-asf-in-the-america-region/>
- - Read the article on the Regional Laboratory Focal Point Workshop held December 2-6, 20219 in Mexico: <https://rr-americas.oie.int/en/news/america-working-to-prevent-the-introduction-of-african-swine-fever/>
- - Discover the communication campaign "ASF KILLS PIGS": <https://trello.com/b/GloiZoik/african-swine-fever-oie>