

“African Swine Fever: “Preparing for surveillance and control”

First Joint Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Laboratories and Epidemiologists

It is known that African swine fever is causing global ravage. Currently the Americas Region is the only region free of this devastating swine disease.

When there is a risk of exotic disease entering a new territory, the coordination of all actors in the chain of events is an essential tool.

Under this concept, the OIE has decided to expand its Regional Training Workshop for National Laboratory Focal Points to also include epidemiologists with expertise in swine health from its 31 Member Countries in the Americas. The workshop will take place in Mexico City, from 2 to 6 December 2019.



The ASF virus presents several challenges to prevent, control and eradicate, considering the absence of effective and safe vaccines, its persistence in the environment, carcasses and uncooked pig products, and the role of wildlife in transmission.

Given the importance of the production and trade of pork at continental and global level makes the Americas' Region, vulnerable.

Objetives of the workshop:

1. To provide an overview about African swine fever, the epidemiological state of play, complexity and key points for prevention, surveillance, preparedness and control.
2. To gain in knowledge and understand how to deal with ASF.
3. To gain in knowledge about the design of surveillance in the Americas countries for ASF
4. To provide knowledge in the interpretation and communication of the diagnosis to Veterinary Authorities, considering diagnosis is an essential part of surveillance and control programs
5. To actively involve the participants through round tables, workshops, simulation and performance exercises.

Animal food production and trade has a crucial relevance in the Americas, considering the social and economic impact, as well as the great diversity of production systems. They therefore play important roles in food security and economy for the countries in the region.



The epidemiological situation of African swine fever (ASF) has become an increasing global concern. The virus has continued to spread in Europe, and after the first confirmed outbreak in China in August 2018, the threat is approaching the Americas.

The current global ASF situation calls for effective risk-based disease management, prevention and surveillance measures to be addressed and implemented in the Americas. Therefore, more than 70 participants will gather in Mexico City from 4 to 6 December, 2019 to discuss and be trained on topics such as: African Swine Fever surveillance; requirements for diagnosis of ASF; sampling and submission of samples; control and eradication measures in the event of an outbreak; role of wild boars, biosecurity, bioprotection and laboratory sustainability approach, among other important topics.

African swine fever is currently absent in the Americas and the capacity to diagnose the disease is varied in the Member Countries of the Region. Having Focal Points and laboratory epidemiologists trained in the interpretation of diagnostic results, as well as in the differential diagnosis of African swine fever is essential to keep the Americas free of African swine fever.

For more information visit the OIE ASF portal: <https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/african-swine-fever/>