

## Recommendations of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever (SGE-ASF) for the Member Countries of the Americas

On 15 June 2020, the second meeting of the Permanent Group of Experts on African Swine Fever (PGE-PPA) of the GF-TADs was held. Organized by the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas in its role as Secretariat, the general objective of the meeting was to develop recommendations that would make it possible to evaluate the risk factors present in the Americas' Region for the introduction of the ASF virus. National and sub-regional risk factors, were also addressed.

Dr Paula Cáceres, Head of the OIE's World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, updated the current global health situation of ASF.

During 2019, ASF was the most reported disease through WAHIS. She also highlighted that differences in regional dynamics were evident in terms of surveillance strategies implemented.

Dr Francisco Reviriego Gordejo, from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, presented the differences between three Risk Analyses (RA) conducted: one before, one during the 2014 European outbreak in 2014 and the third in 2019; thus establishing the main risk factors for domestic pigs and wild boar, considering social aspects and emergency preparedness. The level of response of each RA has allowed to maintain strategies focused on defined actions and to reduce response times in the European Region.

Dr Abelardo de Gracia Scanapieco, from OIRSA (Regional International Organization for Agricultural Health, involving Central American countries), presented a Risk Analysis that represents, or could represent, the health situation of the countries with which they maintain commercial exchange or with which there may be an informal trade of pork products.

The SGE-ASF Member Countries of the Americas: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile and the United States of Americas, presented risk assessments associated with the introduction in their countries, allowing them to identify possible entry routes, mitigation strategies and to prioritize actions to reduce the impact of ASF introduction in their territories.

The private sector was represented by OIPORC, with a model designed to detect threats of PPP introduction.

A survey was carried out by FAO and OIE with the purpose of elucidating the risk and preparedness of countries in the Americas region for a possible ASF entry. In this

context, FAO has mobilized resources to manage health emergencies through a technical cooperation project in 19 LAC countries with the main objective of providing technical and legal tools to mitigate the risk of PPP incursion.

As a closure of the Meeting, the PAG-PPA produced recommendations for the Member Countries of the Americas Region, the main points of which are highlighted in the following table:

### Recomendaciones de la 2da Reunión del GPE-PPA de la Región de las Américas

- To apply the Risk Analysis guidelines available in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- Based on the experience available in the world in the development of Introductory Risk Analyses, to consider at least factors such as:
  - Periodically update evaluations as new data becomes available;
  - To take into account cultural aspects and food consumption habits, including holidays;
  - Focus on the role of human activities in the spread of this disease, where the international transit of goods outside legal trade represents a high risk;
  - Evaluate specific approaches for points of entry where there are no permanent authorities or controls;
  - Involve the private sector and other public sector agencies in developing and updating the analysis of introduction risk;
  - Broaden the focus of the introduction risk analysis, involving other potential pathogens.
- Consider the risk pathways for the spread of the disease among sub regions and countries, in the event that the disease enters the Americas region.
- Share the analyses and results of risk assessments of African Swine Fever introduction currently conducted with other Member Countries.

For more information:

- [OIE awareness campaign "ASF kills pigs"](#)
- [Web news on the 2nd meeting of the SGE-ASF](#)
- [OIE website on ASF](#)
- [Launching of SGE-ASF for the Americas](#)
- [Products of the 2nd meeting of the SGE-ASF for the Americas](#)