

Outcomes of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee Meeting for the Americas

Recognizing that the production and trade of food of animal origin is of crucial importance, and plays an important role in food security as well as in the economy of the countries in the region of the Americas, the regional "Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases" (GF-TADs) was created in 2005.

A number of international and regional organizations, including governments and producers' associations, have been involved in promoting and contributing to the important task of coordination and joint work, while also considering the social and economic impact.

The 11th Electronic Meeting of the [GF-TADs](#) Regional Steering Committee for the Americas was hosted on 16 June by the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas in its role as Secretariat. The meeting aimed at updating regional information within the framework of the GF-TADs in the Americas, in addition to presenting the activities and results of the meetings of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever (SGE-ASF), defining future joint strategies to address ASF in the Americas and reviewing the list of priority diseases as well as the action plan and objectives for each of the diseases.

Dr Jaspinder Komal, President of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee, and Dr Mark Trotman, President of the Board of the Regional Commission, provided the opening speech. Dr Andrés González Serrano, Livestock Development Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO-RLC), also provided introductory remarks.

Dr Hendik Jan Ormel, GF-TADs Global Coordinator, provided a report on the actions of the GF-TADs Global Secretariat. He highlighted the importance of participation in the development of the new Global Action Plan, in line with regional plans, and gave a summary of the global coordination of this platform. Dr Ormel also provided updates regarding the global website, which now contains links to regional sites and a section on each of the priority diseases at the global and regional levels.

Dr Luis Barcos, Regional Representative of the OIE for the Americas and Dr Catya Martínez Rivas, Sub Regional Representative of the OIE, introduced the proposals developed on the revision of the list of priority diseases, as well as the revision of the Terms of Reference and the Plan of Action for the Americas.

Dr Jee Yong Park summarized the ASF updates for GF-TADs at the global level, indicating that even with the barriers produced by the COVID-19 pandemic, ASF continues to spread across countries, especially in India and Southeast Asia. He stressed the importance of rapid country action in a joint response within the framework of GF-TADs.

Dr Andrés Gonzalez Serrano presented, on behalf of FAO, an emergency TCP (Rapid and Preliminary Assessment) and the implementation in 19 countries, focusing on emergency preparedness and risk communication. This project aims to provide technical and legal tools in the event of a probable outbreak of PPPs in the Region to improve response capacity, analyzing the specific situations of each country.

The Recommendations resulting from this meeting included:

- The revision of the proposed update of the Terms of Reference, which define the functioning of the GF-TADs in the Americas;
- The development of the GF-TADs Regional Plan of Action for the Americas for the period 2021-2024, together with indicators of progress in the control of priority diseases;
- The review and update of the list of diseases considered as priorities for GF-TADs in the Americas, including a consultation with regional experts on the potential inclusion of aquatic animal diseases;
- The formation of two new Permanent Expert Groups, dedicated to Classical Swine Fever and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza;
- The adoption of the Recommendations of the first and second meeting of the GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever of the Americas. This will include the preparation of the next meetings of this Permanent Group of Experts, which will cover surveillance and early response, as well as continuity of trade and operations in the event of an outbreak.

At the same time, these Recommendations included the following points for Member Countries:

- The implementation of the recommendations of the meetings of the GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever of the Americas;
- The development of early detection and emergency preparedness plans in the event of the entry of African Swine Fever into the region;
- Active participation in the control and eradication of the diseases listed as priorities.

For more information:

- [Dedicated OIE site on ASF](#)
- [Global GF-TADs website](#)
- [Dedicated site for GF-TADs for the Americas on the Regional Website](#)
- [OIE awareness campaign “ASF kill pigs”](#)
- [Products of the meeting](#)