



First Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on Transboundary Swine Diseases (SGE-TSD) for the Americas. September 23–24, 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONSIDERING THAT:

- The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), a joint global initiative led by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), serves as the technical coordination platform for priority animal health programs in countries.
- The GF-TADs Regional Strategy for the containment and prevention of the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Americas (2021–2025) establishes five pillars of action: Preparedness and response planning, Enhance of biosecurity, Ensuring the business continuity, Coordinated risk communications, community engagement and policy advocacy, and Surveillance for early detection, which should continue to be strengthened in countries.
- The GF-TADs Global Initiative for the Control of African Swine Fever is being updated for the 2026–2030 period to continue global actions against this disease.
- African Swine Fever (ASF) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF) are two of the transboundary diseases with the greatest sanitary, economic, and social impact on swine production in the Americas.
- GF-TADs has promoted the establishment of Standing Groups of Experts (SGE) as regional technical advisory mechanisms that foster information exchange, strategy harmonization, and collaboration to strengthen capacities in countries.
- Building on the existing Standing Group of Experts on ASF and CSF, its scope has been expanded and redefined as the Standing Group of Experts on Transboundary Swine Diseases (SGE-TSD) for the Americas, continuing its mission to directly contribute to the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the containment and prevention of ASF spread and the control of CSF.
- The SGE-TSD is composed of recognized experts from countries in the Americas, international and regional organizations, International Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centers, and the private sector to foster science-based discussions and robust recommendations for countries.

- During the meeting held on September 23 and 24, 2025, the sanitary situation of ASF and CSF in the Americas was discussed, and there is a need to continue preventive programs against ASF and CSF in disease-free countries and control programs in endemic ones.

The SGE-TSD considers it a high priority to continue sanitary actions against ASF and CSF in countries, strengthening regional capacities in alignment with WOAH standards, facilitating the continuity of safe trade, and contributing to the sustainability of the swine sector and food security in the region; and establishes the following **recommendations**:

FOR THE COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS

1. Governance

- Reaffirm the role of GF-TADs as the regional coordination platform for swine diseases (ASF, CSF, and others).
- Strengthen the role of WOAH as the international reference organization, promoting the adoption of its science-based standards.
- Actively participate in the update of the GF-TADs Global Initiative for ASF Control (2026–2030).
- Promote public-private and public-public partnerships for border and in-country disease control.
- Involve agricultural and social extension agencies to broaden the reach of actions.
- Strengthen the capacities and training in agricultural and livestock education centers.

2. Preparedness and Response Planning

- Strengthen capacities for early detection and response, including contingency plans with checklists and periodically updated contact information.
- Conduct emergency simulations with multidisciplinary participation for learning and continuous improvement.



- Establish permanent multidisciplinary teams for risk analysis, including the use of artificial intelligence.

3. Improvement of Biosecurity

- Implement farm biosecurity programs adapted to local culture, with incentives and interdisciplinary training.
- Apply territorial and activity-based risk matrices to define bioexclusion and biocontainment measures.
- Strengthening movement control systems with tools adapted to the local context and modern technologies.

4. Continuity of Trade

- Review and update national sanitary legislation in accordance with WOAH standards, incorporating a risk-based management approach.
- Involve legal teams to ensure the legal backing of veterinary actions.
- Update sanitary certificates to align with the recommendations established in the Terrestrial Code for ASF and CSF and ensure compliance with WOAH's Standard Operating Procedure when submitting self-declarations of disease-free status.
- Recognize the risk posed by hunting trophies and urge the review of import protocols.

5. Risk Communication

- Highlight the role of hunters and coordinate with animal health and wildlife agencies to strengthen surveillance, notification, and early warning systems.
- Implement communication and awareness actions targeting stakeholders in the swine value chain, promoting good practices with a preventive approach, leveraging epidemic intelligence and digital technologies to disseminate key messages.
- Encourage innovation in communication mechanisms and channels to expand outreach to specific audiences such as tourists, producers, hunters, and consumers.

6. Surveillance for Early Detection

- Strengthen early warning and syndromic surveillance systems, including actors from swine production and wildlife.
- Ensure international notification of outbreaks in accordance with WOA standards.
- Incorporate epidemiological intelligence and formal/informal data sources for risk assessment.
- Evaluate and strengthen national diagnostic capacities, including rapid technologies (kits).
- Establish characterizations of pig species movements to enable risk management related to animal movement.

FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION AGENCIES

Governance

- Provide technical support for legislative updates, use of tools such as PALV and LEGN, and regulatory strengthening of veterinary services to align with international standards and facilitate risk-based decision-making.
- Continue institutional coordination within the GF-TADs framework and with regional/subregional agencies by sharing information on actions related to prioritized swine diseases that have been carried out and those currently underway, to contribute to technical cooperation on the priority points identified during the meeting..
- Promote public-private and public-public partnerships for more integrated sanitary management.

Preparedness and Response Planning

- iv. Update the GF-TADs Global Initiative for ASF Control for the 2026–2030 period.
- v. Establish a Regional Incident Coordination Group for sanitary emergency response.
- vi. Consider the formation of regional risk analysis groups (Panama) to assist countries in building capacity for risk assessment with a view to establishing Regional Risk Analysis Groups.
- vii. Contribute to the implementation of Rapid Risk Analysis as a quick, science-based decision-making tool in countries.
- viii. Support countries by facilitating the strengthening of veterinary services capacities regarding prioritized swine diseases such as ASF and CSF and their differential diagnoses (Panama), within the framework of their national swine disease commissions, through the standardization of contingency plans and the execution of simulation exercises with an interdisciplinary and interinstitutional approach.

Biosecurity improvement

- ix. Develop and support the implementation of biosecurity programs in countries covering all levels: farm, regional, and national borders, with a focus on bio-exclusion and biocontainment.
- x. Sponsor the use of digital tools and systems within national biosecurity programs, including intra- and international movement control, traceability, and support for epidemiological research.
- xi. Encourage the establishment of public-private and public-public partnerships to improve the implementation of biosecurity measures.



Business continuity

- xii. Support the implementation of WOAHA international standards in the sanitary management of swine diseases.
- xiii. Conduct cost-effectiveness studies on diagnostic methodologies and rapid test kits. Validate minimum criteria for the use of rapid kits by sponsoring the work of the SGE-TSD.

Risk Communication

- xiv. Design and support the execution of innovative communication strategies adapted to local contexts and diverse audiences.
- xv. Provide training in behavior theories (CAP) to improve risk management and communication.
- xvi. Raise awareness of priority sanitary risks through campaigns and compliance with standards.

Surveillance for Early Detection

- xvii. Promote early warning systems with participation from swine production and wild suid stakeholders.
- xviii. Promote the use of epidemic intelligence to adjust controls based on origin, as well as the continuous awareness of travelers to reduce the risk of introducing diseases such as ASF.
- xix. Consider the incorporation of artificial intelligence in epidemiological surveillance, safeguarding data security and confidentiality through agreed-upon guidelines and protocols.
- xx. Support the strengthening of the regional network of reference laboratories to improve surveillance and diagnostic confirmation.
- xxi. Promote the international notification of outbreaks in accordance with WOAHA standards.
- xxii. Continue supporting the implementation strategy of Canine Brigades for baggage inspection at airports and ports.

Adopted on October 20, 2025