



FAO Viet Nam Newsletter

VNN

Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD)

FAO supports Viet Nam's Department of Animal Health and Department of Livestock Production with HPAI Surveillance Activities



African Swine Fever (ASF) Special Edition

STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS THROUGH PRACTICE

As African Swine Fever (ASF) is spreading in China, especially to Yunnan Province bordering Viet Nam, the threat of disease introduction has increased for Viet Nam. As the critical first step, Viet Nam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) timely issued a National Emergency Response Action Plan for ASF on 15 November 2018 specifying actions to be taken by central and provincial government authorities before and after ASF is detected.

In order to strengthen the preparedness and ensure readiness of the border provinces against pos-

sible introduction of ASF, FAO Viet Nam's Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) technically supported the ASF simulation exercise that was organized by MARD in collaboration with Lao Cai Provincial People's Committee (PPC) on 5 December 2018 in Lao Cai Province. FAO Viet Nam ECTAD provided risk communication materials and technical assistance for setting up field rapid diagnosis for ASF during the exercise.

The Senior Technical Coordinator and Laboratory Expert of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam participated in the exercise introduction and scenario briefing session at the Lao Cai Provincial Conference Center. After, they travelled to the simulation outbreak sites in Ban Qua com-

Continued next page

African Swine Fever (ASF) Facts

Q. What is an African Swine Fever (ASF)?

A. African swine fever (ASF) is a contagious viral disease of pigs and wild boar that causes severe economic losses to the pig sector. Originally restricted to Africa, it was introduced into Georgia in 2007, from where it spread westwards (reaching Eastern and Central Europe) and eastwards within Europe. The disease has now been reported in China, threatening countries in East and Southeast Asia.

Continued on page 3

Welcome note

Xin chào! Welcome to FAO ECTAD Viet Nam's African Swine Fever (ASF) special edition 2018/2019 newsletter. 2018 is already heading to an end we would like to give an update on this disease threat that has recently emerged in Asia. To date (December 2018), no ASF is found in Viet Nam but we are working our best with the Department of Animal Health (DAH) to prevent and prepare for this disease.

Starting from the first page, and continued to the second, we featured our technical assistance to DAH on ASF preparedness. Viet Nam's readiness was possible thanks to the capacity built from the H7N9 emergency preparedness and response activities.

For our non-technical audiences, we featured some basic facts about African Swine Fever. This article is

featured on the first and third page of our newsletter. Based on the brochure produced by FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, we dedicated a page for Questions and Answers on ASF.

You can also read the ASF situation update of the region. This information is consolidated by FAO Animal Health Service team at Headquarters. If you want more information, regular ASF updates are available in their website.

As ASF occurred in China, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific organized an emergency regional consultative meeting on ASF risk reduction and preparedness. Vietnam Animal Health authorities and FAO Viet Nam technical officers participated and joined the regional effort. Please enjoy our ASF special edition

newsletter and let us know if you have any feedbacks. On behalf of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam, I would like to wish you and your family a great 2019! Chúc mừng năm mới 2019!



Kind regards,
Pawin Padungtod
Senior Technical Coordinator



The Laboratory expert presenting timely ASF diagnosis through the portable PCR machine

mune, Bat Xat district. The exercise team including officers from Department of Animal Health (DAH) National center for Veterinary Diagnostic (NCVD) and Regional Animal Health Office No.2 (RAHO2) performed necropsy and collected samples for laboratory confirmation at the outbreak site before burying all the suspected carcasses. FAO ECTAD's Laboratory expert set up field rapid diagnosis for ASF including the use of portable PCR machine and lateral flow device for identification of ASF virus in the field.

"As one of the core technical agencies for animal health, FAO is glad to support MARD and Lao Cai PPC to strengthen the preparedness towards ASF outbreak. Today at the simulation exercise, DAH and Lao Cai Province demonstrated a good level of preparedness for responding to suspected ASF outbreak. Moreover, thanks to quick laboratory confirmation, the

containment of animal and the outbreak could be completed within a few hours after the initial reporting." said Pawin Padungtod, the Senior Technical Coordinator of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam.



ASF simulation: sample collection from dead swines



ASF simulation: explanation of procedures by FAO's lab expert Dr. Ken Inui



Dr. Ken Inui having an interview on Vietnam's national TV news program

African Swine Fever (ASF) Facts

Continued from 1st page

Q. What causes ASF?

A. The disease is caused by a virus that is very resistant and can survive for long periods, even months, in feces, meat products (frozen, salted and smoked or undercooked), and carcasses of dead animals. The virus, however, can be killed with several disinfectants such as **1% formaldehyde**, **2% NaOH** or **paraphenylphenolic disinfectants**.

Q. Which animals can be affected?

A. The ASF virus exclusively infects suids, e.g. pigs and wild boar.

Q. Can humans be infected with the virus?

A. No.

Q. How is the disease transmitted?

A. Wild boar and pigs can infect each other by direct contact, particularly when blood is present. Healthy animals can also get infected when they consume undercooked pork products, either while scavenging or when fed uncooked swill. They can also become infected by feeding on infected pork or carcasses, or through contaminated tools and equipment (clothes, needles, vehicles, etc.).

Q. What are the clinical signs of the disease?

A. Infection can cause a wide range of clinical signs. Sick pigs usually die. In the backyard sector, pigs show a lack of appetite followed by sudden death. Rarely other clinical signs are observed.

A. In commercial farms, you may also see depression, weight loss, hemorrhages in the skin (tips of ears, tail, legs, chest and abdomen), lameness and abortion in pregnant sows. Clinical signs may be more difficult to see in wild boar because of their long dark hair.



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Bloody diarrhoea and distinct hyperaemic (red) areas on skin of neck, chest and extremities



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Cyanosis (bluing) at the tips of ears



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Haemorrhagic lymph node



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Enlarged spleen

Q. Is there a vaccine or treatment?

A. No vaccine. No effective treatment either.

Q. What should people who raise pigs do to protect their pigs?

A. Left-overs fed to pigs that may contain meat (i.e. swill feeding) should be boiled before. Pigs should be kept indoors all the time, not allowing them to comingle with other pigs or wild boar. Buy your pigs from a trusted source and keep them separated from your animals during two weeks (quarantine). Avoid unnecessary visitors getting in contact with your pigs.

Bringing back meat products from other countries can result in the spread of the disease

To prevent the incursion of ASF and other animal diseases, **do not bring back home meat or meat products from other countries**, particularly those infected with ASF.

Travelers should always make sure that food waste is only discarded in closely sealed waste containers where pigs and wild boar will have no access.

The source of this article is based on the ASF leaflet made by FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. For more resources, please visit: <http://www.fao.org/index.php?id=94206>

ASF SITUATION UPDATE

To date, African swine fever (ASF) has not entered Viet Nam (28 December 2018).

Its neighbouring country China has confirmed its first outbreak in Liaoning Province on 3 August 2018. Since the China Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MoARA) confirmed its first African swine fever (ASF) outbreak, ASF was detected in 98 villages in 23 Provinces/Autonomous Region/Municipalities. More than 706,000 pigs have been culled in an effort to halt further spread.

African swine fever (ASF) is a viral disease affecting pigs and wild boar with up to 100% fatality rate. Currently the following provinces

in China are affected: Anhui, Heilongjiang, Henan, Jilin, Liaoning, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shanxi, Yunnan, Hunan and Guizhou, Hubei, Jiangxi, Fujian, Sichuan and Shaanxi Provinces, Tianjin, Chongqing, Shanghai and Beijing Municipalities, and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.



To effectively prevent the situation, FAO's recommendation to the countries in the region are as the followings:

- Animal disease containment in its broadest sense should be prioritized within the highest levels of governments.
- Preparedness (e.g. contingency planning, standard operating procedures— SOPs, secured financial support) for improved early warning, detection and notification, early reaction, and coordination needs to be in place and reviewed periodically in relation to changing disease situation.
- Application of strict biosecurity measures specific to the different swine producing sectors including frequent cleaning and disinfection of farms, transport vehicles, and improved husbandry practices and production systems.
- Strengthening surveillance and monitoring of transport of live pigs as well as pork products.
- Good communication and coordination with swine producing commercial sector and swine famers are essential to strengthen cooperation in ASF prevention, detection, and control. Awareness and training of all stakeholders, from veterinarians to farmers, intermediaries and other value chain actors is needed.
- Communication to public is to be in place to avoid the rumours leading to food safety perceptions and consumption disruption.
- Farm registries, animal identification and censuses are essential to enable animal health interventions.
- Prohibition of swill feeding where feasible; highly regulated where not.
- Strengthening proper disposal of food waste (food services, airports, seaports), which may contain uncooked pork products.
- Outbreak control strategies must be in place. The strategies need to be developed in consultation with the private sector (pig production and allied industries, such as transport, feed operators) for improved disease management options and compliance.

The source of the situation update is from FAO Animal Health Service.

For more ASF updates, please check: http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empires/ASF/Situation_update.html

Animal health authorities in Viet Nam joins the **Emergency Regional Consultative Meeting on ASF Risk Reduction and Preparedness**



The recent outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in China has become a potential food security and socio-economic threat to bordering countries. As a disease with no effective vaccine, ASF shows 90% of fatality rate in infected pigs. In order to reduce the risk and fully prepare the possible invasion of the disease, animal health experts and authorities from FAO ECTAD Viet Nam and the Department of Animal Health of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (DAH-MARD) participated in the Emergency Regional Consultative Meeting on ASF Risk Reduction and Preparedness organized by FAO on 5-7 September 2018.

Inviting core actors of the ASF control and prevention intervention, 87 representatives from animal health authorities in 10 countries from the region, private sector stakeholders, academia, development partners, and FAO attended the emergency regional consultative meeting. During the meeting, participants reviewed the ASF situation and risks to the rest of China and the region, developed a regional approach for ASF risk reduction, preparedness and response, and identified priority actions required for countries in the short, medium and longer term. Moreover, with the facilitation by FAO, participants developed a stakeholder network for ASF.



From the ASF control experience from the European Union (EU) and China, participants highlighted the importance of enhanced preparedness, awareness on biosecurity, and capacity to strengthen risk-based control and planning, and implement elimination strategies. Moreover, multi-sectoral and multi-lateral coordination and collaboration between sectors and among countries were highlighted. According to the mentioned experiences, it was recommended for countries to publicly acknowledge those who put efforts into reporting early and thereby allowing rapid actions to take place that allows containing the infection and that all relevant stakeholders to cooperate and accept and deliver on their responsibilities to prevent, report early, and respond.

The meeting agreed on the Proposed Regional Collaborative Framework for ASF Risk Reduction and Preparedness. The proposed collaborative framework is aligned with the recommendations from the recent meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific. Furthermore, the meeting recommended to immediately take actions using opportunities provided by any existing platforms.

"In collaboration with the Government of Viet Nam and FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, FAO ECTAD Viet Nam will continue to closely monitor the ASF situation and make sure to fully support the country for preparedness, and response in case ASF enters into Viet Nam." said Pawin Padungtod, the Senior Technical Coordinator of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam.



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