



# GF-TADS

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



## A new group of experts has been created to prevent the entry of African Swine Fever in the Americas Region

Keywords: African Swine Fever, OIE, GF-TADS, Americas Region, Prevention, FAO, Risk of introduction, Emergency preparedness, Animal Health



On the occasion of the 10th meeting of the GF-TADS Regional Steering Committee for the Americas, organised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), high level officials of the national Veterinary Services of the regional countries gathered to discuss about how to better coordinate to prevent the entry of the disease in the region and the decision to create a Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever (SGE-ASF) for the Americas.

**17 September 2019 Panama City, Panama.** The recent spread of African swine fever (ASF) in Europe, and more recently in Asia, is responsible for huge economic losses within the pig industry, endangering the livelihoods of many smallholders. Given the gravity of the situation, and following the request of its Member Countries at the General Session in May, the OIE launched [a global initiative for the control of ASF](#). The objective is to control the disease, strengthen countries' prevention and preparation efforts, and minimise the adverse effects on animal health, animal welfare and international trade.

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The Americas Region is free of the disease and its free status must be preserved. However, a lack of precautions by professionals, hunters, travellers, farmers, or anyone unaware of its transmission pathways could result in the emergence of ASF. Preventing its introduction in the region, and, if ever it happens, being prepared to contain its spread and devastating consequences are of the utmost importance.



**At the 10th Meeting of the GF TADs Steering Committee of the Americas**, 15 OIE Delegates and senior authorities, alongside Regional Organizations<sup>1</sup>, representing North, Central and South America were present. In addition to the analysis of the regional situation, the discussions led to the creation of a Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever (SGE-ASF) for Americas under the umbrella of GF-TADs, taking the [SGE ASF created in the European region in 2014](#) as a model. Indeed, developing measures specific and adaptable to the region is essential to prevent the entry of the disease thanks to the definition of priority actions oriented to local needs and complementary of the global initiative. Internationally recognized ASF or swine disease experts with experience working in Europe or Asia will be included in the group on an ad hoc basis on agreement of the SGE-ASF. The Group will gain advantage of experts from Europe or Asia experienced in ASF joining the group on an ad hoc basis.

<sup>1</sup> OIRSA: Regional International Organization for Agricultural Health,  
IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture,  
PAHO: Pan American Health Organization,  
CAN: Andean Community of Nations,  
CARICOM: Caribbean Community,  
CVO: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone,  
OIPORC: Ibero-American Pork Organization



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



The presence of representatives of the pig industry is to be noted. This is a good example of how Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs) can reinforce the effectiveness of veterinary service activities and support implementation of global programme for the control and the eradication of animal diseases ([know more about PPPs in the veterinary domain](#)).

All participants agreed that strong collaboration by the regional and international community, as well as good communication, are essential to minimise the effects of ASF.

### **More information on ASF**

*ASF is caused by a virus affecting pigs of all ages, and its signs can be confused with other diseases. It can be spread through live or dead, domestic or wild pigs, and products derived from them. In addition, transmission may occur through contaminated food and other inanimate objects (fomites) such as footwear, clothing, vehicles, knives, or equipment. The “human-factor” is of tremendous importance in the spread of the disease, considering that the virus is resistant in the environment and survives long distances, especially in pig-products. No vaccine exists against the disease, prevention is consequently key.*

### **Useful links**

- [OIE webpage on ASF](#)
- [‘ASF kills pigs’: OIE awareness campaign](#)