



Concept Note

Project inception of the “African swine fever (ASF) risk mitigation and recovery for smallholder pig farmers” and other ASF supports for Thailand

24-25 April 2023, VIE Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

BACKGROUND

The incursion of ASF into the Asia-Pacific region has been a major concern as the region produces more than half of the global pig population. After the initial detection of ASF in China on 3 August 2018, a total of 17 countries in Asia and the Pacific have reported ASF outbreaks as of February 2023. The focus of regional disease control is now shifting towards managing ASF as a disease that is endemic to the region and minimizing the ongoing impacts on food security and economic stability, particularly for smallholders.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) at the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) has been collaborating with multiple resource partners such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Republic of Korea (ROK) to respond to the ASF outbreak in the region. Through these collaborations, projects were undertaken to “Strengthen field capacity for ASF detection and emergency response (OSRO/RAS/903/USA)” and “Strengthen capacity to control African swine fever and other high impact TADs in Asia (OSRO/RAS/001/ROK).” Practical guidelines for smallholders were developed along with training packages and other information, education, and communication resources. Trainings have been conducted in several countries for veterinarians, community animal health workers, and farmers reaching more than 930 veterinarians and animal health officials, and 2,000 farmers and community members in the Asia-Pacific region.

FAO, in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Development (DLD), is organizing a two-day meeting to discuss the support needed for Thailand on ASF and to develop a work plan for the projects “Strengthen capacity to control African Swine Fever and other high impact TADs in Asia (OSRO/RAS/001/ROK)” and “African swine fever risk mitigation and recovery for smallholder pig farmers (OSRO/RAS/201/USA)”. Furthermore, this meeting will provide an opportunity to officially launch the new FAO project, OSRO/RAS/201/USA, to support smallholder farmers.

Under the new project, “African swine fever risk mitigation and recovery for smallholder pig farmers (OSRO/RAS/201/USA),” funds have been allocated to pilot community-level interventions to reduce the risk and impact of ASF for smallholders. The proposed interventions will be based on the FAO’s guidelines for ASF prevention and control in smallholder pig farming

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in Asia and tailored to meet community needs. Importantly, the activities must be practical, socially and economically acceptable, and promote ownership of practices to ensure sustainability. Therefore, FAO has also been developing a protocol to assess the impact of such interventions on farming practices, smallholder livelihoods, and gender issues within participating communities.

The proposed new award builds on outputs and lessons learned from previous FAO activities targeting smallholder pig farmers and community engagement in ASF risk mitigation and recovery. Ongoing project activities will apply a systematic, bottom-up approach to designing appropriate interventions. The inclusion of farms and communities covering a variety of local contexts (scenarios), can help to determine the impacts of the proposed risk mitigation and rehabilitation under different conditions, and inform an evidence-based approach for scaling up. Finally, efforts will be made to open policy dialogues based on the outcomes of the community intervention programmes. Dialogues will be encouraged vertically (from central to local levels) and horizontally (between private and public sectors, and beyond the livestock sector) to adopt a community-focused and One Health approach to ASF responses.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an ASF activities roadmap under the newly launched project, “African Swine Fever risk mitigation and recovery for smallholder pig farmers (OSRO/RAS/201/USA)” and the ongoing project, “Strengthen Capacity to Control African Swine Fever and other high impact TADs in Asia (OSRO/RAS/001/ROK).
2. To officially inform implementing partners and stakeholders of the launching of the “ASF risk mitigation and recovery for smallholder pig farmers (OSRO/RAS/201/USA)” project.

PARTICIPANTS (n.32)

1. DLD (14+2): 2 for opening only, 5 from Bangkok, 2 from regional office, 7 additional observers from Bangkok
2. Academia (9): Chulalongkorn University, Chiang Mai University, Kesetsart University, Mahidol University
3. Thai Swine Veterinary Association (4)
4. USAID (1-2)
5. FAO RAP (5-6)

DATES AND VENUE

The meetings will be conducted at VIE Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
24-25 April 2023

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Time	Activities	Responsible Facilitator
Day 1 (24 April)		
08:30-09:00	Registration	FAO
09:00-10:00	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO - DLD Introduction of participants	Dr Kachen Wongsathapornchai Regional Manager FAO RAP ECTAD Dr Somchuan Ratanamungklanon Director General DLD or Dr Narong Liengchareon Director Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services DLD
10:00-10:30	Group photo and coffee break	
10:30-12:00	Project briefing and main constraints to fight ASF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional updates on ASF and activities by FAO - ASF situation, control, and prevention program of Thailand 	Dr Sarah I. Jayme Animal Health Specialist (ASF) FAO RAP ECTAD Dr Tosapol Dejyong Director, Sub-Division of Swine Disease Control and Prevention Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services DLD
12:00-13:00	Lunch break	
13:00-13:30	Community-based engagement for smallholder pig farms	Asst. Prof. Dr Terdsak Yano Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Chiang Mai University
13:30-14:00	Results of the value chain analysis	Dr Waroonsiri Charoenlarp

Time	Activities	Responsible Facilitator
		Veterinarian (Professional Level) Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services DLD
14:00-17:00	Plenary or group discussion on ASF activities for Thailand (including coffee break) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWOT/TOWS analysis and stakeholder identification of implemented ASF programmes for small-scale farms - Group presentation of the analysis 	Dr Tosapol Dejjong Dr Sarah I. Jayme
Day 2 (25 April)		
9:00-9:10	Recapitulation of Day 1	Dr Arisara Choochern Veterinarian (Practitioner level) Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services DLD
09:10-10:00	Definition of pig broker	Dr Tosapol Dejjong
10:00-10:30	Clean chain model for pig farms in Thailand	Dr Tawan Thongsawang Veterinarian (Professional level) Department of Disease Control Ministry of Public Health
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-12:30	Identify objectives and activities for CABI	Dr Tosapol Dejjong Dr Waroonsiri Charoenlarp Dr Arisara Choochern
12:30-13:30	Lunch break	
13:30-14:30	Develop timeline of CABI activities in Thailand	Dr Tosapol Dejjong Dr Waroonsiri Charoenlarp Dr Arisara Choochern
14:30-15:00	Coffee break	
15:00-16:00	Wrap up and acknowledgement Closing	Dr Tosapol Dejjong