



CONCEPT NOTE

Launch Meeting for the African Swine Fever (ASF) Information Exchange Platform

Bangkok, Thailand
12-13 June 2024

Background

African swine fever (ASF) is a major threat to the pig industry globally. Because of its impact on production, animal welfare and trade, and, therefore, on livelihoods and food security in Asia and the Pacific region, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific through its Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (FAO RAP ECTAD), with technical support from the [Trust in Animals and Food Safety](#),¹ is working to establish an information exchange platform on ASF to improve disease control through public-private partnerships with the financial support from the United States of America's Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

The intent is to provide both a source of reliable information for the public and a forum for all stakeholders from the animal health and food production sectors to learn about disease control and to share their success stories with controlling and managing ASF.

Thanks to regular, simple exchanges, including sharing of practical experience, the various stakeholders can benefit from each other. If the model is successful and is sustained by stakeholders' contributions and support, the platform could be extended beyond the Asia and the Pacific countries, in regions where ASF is occurring or threatening food security and pig farmers' livelihoods.

Event Overview

Stakeholder insights about needs and aspirations for the platform were gathered over the past few months. The platform architecture was developed based on these perspectives, and it was tested by a group of stakeholders from across Southeast Asia. Selected organizations are now invited to a launch event where the ASF information exchange platform will be presented and demonstrated live.

Participants will be able to provide feedback in real-time and put forward possible content for the platform as their contributions. They will also be encouraged to discuss and explore in small groups what future functionalities of the platform could further enhance partnerships, learnings and ASF control approaches in the region and beyond.

¹ TAFS (Trust in Animals and Food Safety): independent forum based in Switzerland providing a global platform for all sectors of the food chain to address issues related to animal health and food safety, and more broadly to food security.

The event will also offer an initial opportunity to exchange ideas between stakeholders from different countries and learn from each other, which is very much in the spirit of the future platform.

This is a unique opportunity for all actors involved to sit together and own a useful tool to achieve collective goals for ASF control.

Objectives:

Overall Objective:

- Strengthen public-private partnership on ASF prevention and control in the region through development of an information exchange platform.

Specific Objectives:

- Provide a venue for beta-testing the initial design of the ASF platform.
- Gather feedback and views on how to further enhance the capacities of the platform through participatory and consultation process.
- Develop a sustainability plan to support the ASF platform for the long-term.

Expected Outputs:

- Revised information exchange platform based on the feedback gathered during consultation process of the meeting.

Key points:

- Participants will preferably attend in-person, but we will investigate the possibility to support online participation. The meeting will take place in English. Private stakeholders will need to cover their own travel expenses.
- The set up of the meeting (see agenda), the sitting arrangements and the breaks between meeting sessions will all focus on enhancing multi-sectoral introductions and exchanges.
- Small group exercises and discussions will also promote mutual understanding and cooperation in problem-solving. We will use an engagement application (e.g. Mentimeter or AhaSlides) to collect real-time feedback.
- The scope of the meeting sits at strategic level as discussions will seek to obtain commitment of contributions and resources to maintain the platform. Feedback received during the meeting will be considered to further refine the platform.

Timing/duration and Location:

12-13 June 2024; Bangkok, Thailand

Expected Participants:

Total of approximately 40 participants.

Public sector

International organizations	FAO RAP (Bangkok) -4 FAO ECTAD Country Offices-5 Donor: US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)-1 (self-funded) WOAH (Regional Office-Tokyo; Subregional Office - Bangkok)-2 (self-funded) TAFS-3 (self-funded)
Advisory board members	FAO funded: Klaus Depner (FLI), Dirk Pfeiffer (CityU), Thanawat Tiensin (FAO HQ), Filip Claes (FAO RAP) Self-funded: Hirofumi Kugita (WOAH RRAP), Ulrich Kihm (TAFS)
Member Nations	1 representative each
Cambodia	General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (GDAHP)
Indonesia	Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Department of Livestock and Fisheries
Malaysia	Department Of Veterinary Services
The Philippines	Bureau of Animal Industry
Singapore	National Parks Board
Thailand	Department of Livestock Development
Viet Nam	Department of Animal Health

Private sector – open invitation via FAO website

- Representatives from Livestock and Food Products Companies
- Representatives from pig farmers and producers in the region
- Representatives from professional associations

African Swine Fever (ASF) information exchange platform to facilitate public-private partnerships

Agenda

Day 1: 12 June 2024

Day 1: 12 June	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration / Meet and Greet
09:30 – 10:15	Welcome and opening address TAFS Forum FAO Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)
10:15-10:30	Presentation of participants – icebreaker TAFS Forum
10:30-10:45	Group photo
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
Session 1: ASF and the need for better information exchange	
11:15-11:45	ASF in Asia Pacific Ms Sarah Jayme, FAO RAP
11:45-12:15	Presentation of the initiative: vision, purpose, approach. Ms Aurélie Castinel, TAFS Forum
12:30-14:00	Lunch
Session 2: Focus on the platform	
14:00-14:15	Demonstration of ASF platform website: how to navigate through the ASF platform website and submit content. Ms Aurélie Castinel, TAFS Forum
14:15-15:15	Interactive feedback session
15:15-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-16:15	Improving Animal Disease Control through Sharing of Knowledge and Experience. Prof. Dirk Pfeiffer, City University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences, Hong Kong
16:15-16:45	Open Forum 1 Comments, impressions, questions from participants
16:45-17:00	Review of Day 1. Outline of program for Day 2. Mr Patrik Buholzer, TAFS Forum

Day 2: 13 June 2024

Day 2: 13 June	
09:00-09:30	Meet and Greet
09:30-09:45	Welcome and introduction to Day 2. Mr Patrik Buholzer, TAFS Forum
Session 3: Focus on public-private partnerships	
09:45-10:45	Examples of partnerships for animal disease control: successes and challenges – ‘working together’. Dr Klaus Depner, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Germany Panel discussion on partnerships and ASF
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:15	Interactive discussion: <i>What future for the ASF partnership platform?</i>
12:15-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:00	Report back on interactive discussion.
14:00-14:30	Open Forum 2 Comments, impressions and questions from participants.
14:30-14:45	Summary of the event. Patrik Buholzer, TAFS Forum
14:45-15:00	Closing remarks Ms Yooni Oh, FAO RAP Mr Patrik Buholzer, TAFS Forum

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food
and Rural Affairs
Republic of Korea