



# reports

## THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER AND OTHER IMPORTANT DISEASES OF SWINE

Rome, Italy  
5-7 November 2013



### **Cover photographs**

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THE GLOBAL PLATFORM  
FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER  
AND OTHER IMPORTANT  
DISEASES OF SWINE

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Rome, Italy  
5-7 November 2013

**Daniel Beltrán-Alcrudo**

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# Background

African swine fever (ASF) represents a severe threat to trade, livelihoods, food security and nutrition. Able to cause up to 100 percent mortality in pigs, this viral disease can decimate a family's source of income, food and savings as well as cripple international trade. The issue is further complicated by the role of wild suid populations in maintenance, spread and transmission. While vaccine or treatments for ASF do not yet exist, effective prevention and control tools are available to help stop the spread of ASF and to progressively control the disease in affected areas. Past efforts have shown that eradication from domestic pig populations is feasible, although full of challenges.

History has repeatedly shown the transboundary potential of ASF and, over the past decade, the world has experienced an unprecedented upsurge of the occurrence of ASF. In Africa, the disease has spread into new areas, driven by the tremendous growth of the swine sector and the increased movement of people and products. In particular, the informal movement of infected pork products has allowed the virus to jump across the globe thousands of kilometres from its source. Viral circulation is on the rise and ASF is now established beyond Africa, in the Caucasus and the Russian Federation. Any country with a swine sector is at an imminent risk from an ASF introduction. Prevention and control are further challenged by the lack of coordination of national and regional initiatives around the globe as well as the complexities posed by the wide diversity of stakeholders involved.

Other swine diseases are also on the rise. Viral diseases like classical swine fever (CSF), parasitic diseases like trichinellosis and cysticercosis, recently emerged diseases like porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS) and porcine circovirus-2 associated diseases (PCVAD), and other threats that spread through the swine value chain are more and more common in certain parts of the world. Rather than fighting these diseases separately, disease control efforts can be designed to capitalize on the similarities of these threats in order to improve swine health overall in a more cost effective way.

From a global perspective, transboundary animal diseases are most effectively controlled under international frameworks that can coordinate the activities of relevant stakeholders and provide a platform for knowledge exchange that leads to the development of common approaches towards sustainable control. Successful examples of such frameworks are the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)-hosted platforms such as the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP), the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD), and the Program Against African Trypanosomosis (PAAT).

With the generous support of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), FAO brought together key stakeholders with the aim to establish a Global Platform that could coordinate ASF early warning, prevention and progressive control efforts. Participants included i) international organizations; ii) development agencies; iii) regional organizations; iv) governments; v) research institutions; vi) reference laboratories; and vii) the private sector.

The *objectives of the meeting* were to:

- Present the Platform's concept, including vision, mission and goals.
- Clarify stakeholder expectations with regard to the Platform.
- Decide on the network's membership, structure, sustainability and governance.
- Define the Platform's scope of action for the short and medium term.



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## Participants

In total, fifty-two participants representing forty institutions were present, originating from both affected and unaffected regions worldwide, i.e. Africa (10 participants), America (9), Asia (2) and Europe (18), plus international organizations (14).

According to the type of organization they represented, all major stakeholders were represented at the meeting (full list of participants in Annex 1). These included:

- **Government** (12 participants): Veterinary services and other government institutions from Belarus, Cameroon, China, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, Uganda and the United States of America (USA);
- **Swine producers, veterinary associations and industry representatives** (7 participants):
  - Swine producers: Farmers Choice Limited and the Pig Improvement Company (PIC International)
  - Diagnostic companies: INGENASA
  - Professional associations: American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV), National Pork Board (NPB), BPEX and the World Veterinary Association (WVA);
- **International and Regional organizations** (17 participants): FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and the European Commission (EC) Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO);
- **Non-governmental organizations** (NGOs) (1 participant): Veterinarians Without Borders (VSF);
- **Research institutions and laboratories** (15 participants): OIE, FAO and EU Reference Centers and most major institutions researching on ASF: Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Centro de Investigación en Sanidad Animal (CISA-INIA), Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL), Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Instituto de Investigación en Recursos Cinegéticos (IREC), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Istituto Zooprofilattico dell'Umbria e delle Marche (IZSUM), Mississippi State University, National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD), National Research Institute for Veterinary Virology and Microbiology (VNIIVViM), National Veterinary Institute (SVA), Pirbright Institute, Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) and University of Pretoria).

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## Agenda

The 2.5-day meeting took place from 5 to 7 November 2013 at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. The meeting was structured in two major blocks (see agenda in Annex 2).

The first day and a half detailed the background for the meeting and allowed all groups of stakeholders to present their concerns, priorities and challenges. The welcome remarks and description of the agenda were followed by a session aimed at “Setting the scene”, which provided a general overview on ASF, a success story on how it was controlled in the Iberian Peninsula, the industry’s perspective and the challenges posed by low biosecurity swine production settings and wild suids.

The different regions’ perspectives were presented at the session on ASF status, challenges and priorities around the world, while the research session covered the recently established Global ASF Research Alliance (GARA) and the results of the gap analysis conducted in epidemiology, vaccines and diagnostics, plus a brief description on ASFORCE (an EC research consortium) and IAEA research activities.

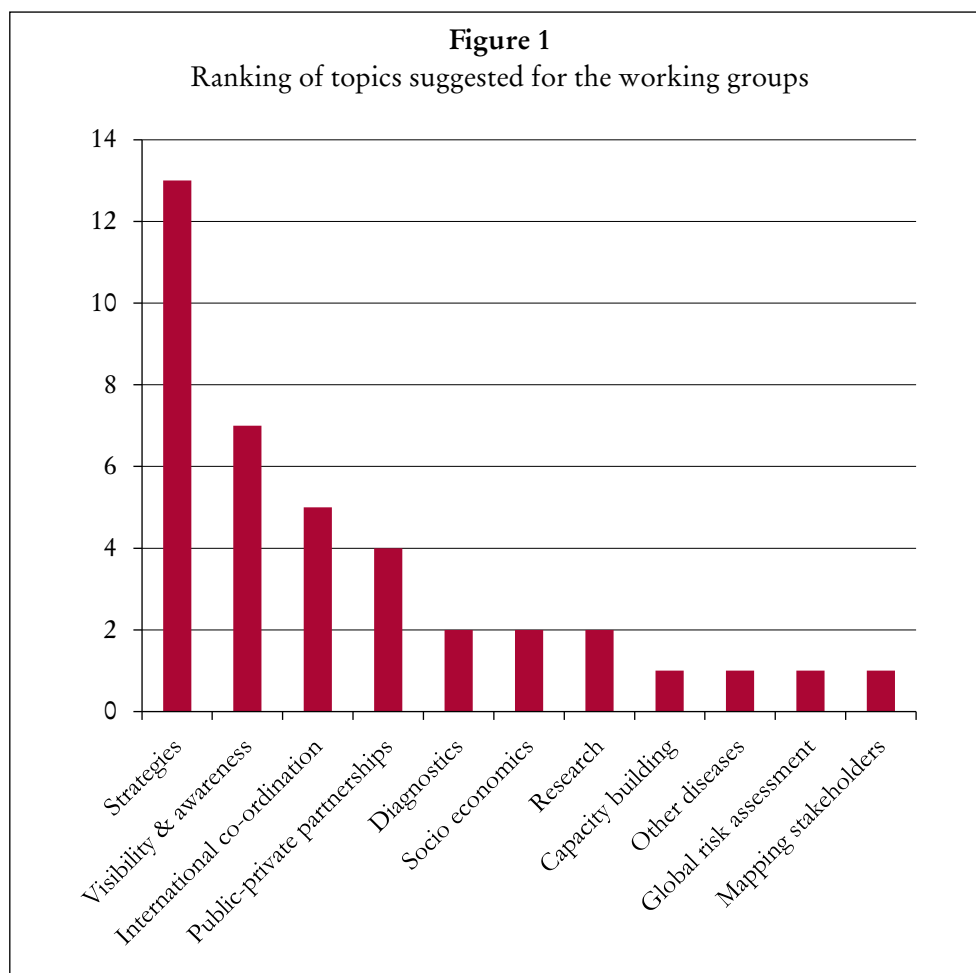
During the session on existing international initiatives, the African ASF Strategy (being developed by AU-IBAR and FAO) was presented, together with the recently established ASF Regional sub-networks, FAO-OIE Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) and the EC activities on ASF. The OIE presented their ASF-related activities, including horizontal approaches (e.g. strengthening of Veterinary Services, OIE PVS Pathway tools, horizontal chapters of the OIE Terrestrial Code, OIE Member Countries obligations to report notifiable disease events, etc) and ASF-specific issues (particularly the reporting of ASF events to WAHIS-WAHID, and the ASF Chapters of the Terrestrial Code and the Terrestrial Manual).

The session on “Learning from experience”, where other global initiatives, namely the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP), the OIE/FAO Network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU) and the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock were presented, completed this initial block.

The second half of the meeting was dedicated to group discussions aimed at defining/setting the basics of the Platform and to begin exploring its goals and activities. The session was structured as discussions within working groups, followed by oral reports to the plenary group for open discussion and consensus. Two of the topics for the working groups were fixed (1 – Vision, Mission and Goals; and 2 - Proposed Structure of the Platform). To identify the other four topics for breakout sessions, participants were first asked in a round table to suggest the most important issues that should be covered by the working groups. The participants’ suggestions were grouped into the following categories and respective scores (Figure 1).

Topics 1 and 2 (fixed) were merged into one group (Group 1) because of the low numbers of participants in each of them. Subsequently, the following working group discussion assignments were established (spokespersons in italics):

- ***Group 1: Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals + Proposed Structure of the Platform.*** Participants were asked to cover the following aspects:



- 1) Vision, mission and strategic goals;
  - 2) Membership (stakeholders and sponsors); and
  - 3) Governance, e.g. secretariat, steering group, advisory committee, etc.
- Group 1 was integrated by Berhanu Bedane, Joseph Domenech, Hermann Unger, Edward Okoth, Dietrich Rassow.
- **Group 2: *Strategies and Guidelines for Sectors/Settings*.** Participants were asked to answer the following questions/issues:
    - 1) What is needed?;
    - 2) Who needs them?;
    - 3) Which sectors or settings are the priorities?;
    - 4) What format (strategy or guidance) is most useful?;
    - 5) Relevant initiatives that could inform the drafting process; and
    - 6) Ideas for the process of drafting and consultation.

Group 2 was integrated by Eric Etter, Francesco Feliziani, Akihito Furuta, Nikita Lebedev, Noelina Nantima, José Manuel Sánchez-Vizcaíno, Karl Stahl and Joaquín Vicente.
  - **Group 3: *Visibility, Awareness, Resource Mobilisation and Advocacy*.** Questions posed to participants of the group included:
    - 1) Who need to know?;
    - 2) What are the priorities?;
    - 3) What tools would assist resource mobilization and advocacy?;

4) What visibility tools to use, e.g. website, leaflets, labeling of activities, etc?, and

5) Map relevant partners and initiatives.

Group 3 was integrated by Helene Clarke, Gunther Kiel, Casimir Ndongou Kounou, Jean Richards, Kazimierz Tarasiuk, Sharon Tsigadi and Henry Wamwayi

• **Group 4: International/Cross Border and Co-ordination (including laboratory issues).** The following issues were posed to the group:

1) Co-ordination – identify multi-region and regional issues where co-ordination is needed;

2) How could the Platform help with the global issues?;

3) For regional issues, what currently prevents countries working together?; and

4) For regional issues – what are the immediate priorities?

Group 4 was integrated by Marisa Arias, Gavin Braunstein, Cyril Gay, Denis Kolbasov, Dmitry Morozov, Evgeny Nepoklonov, Mauro Pavone, Mark Ryan, Antonio Sanz, Fernando Torres-Velez and Zhiliang Wang

• **Group 5: Stakeholders, Private and Public sector Relationship/Partnership.** It was decided to have a group on private public partnerships (PPP), rather than having them represented across all groups. Participants were asked to cover the following issues:

1) To identify themes or priorities where the Platform could assist;

2) To identify areas where the private sector might (further) support;

3) To identify /map other private sector stakeholders and potential allies; and

4) Voice and representation, and how to engage the wider stakeholders.

Group 5 was integrated by Richard Bishop, John Neilan, Mary Louise Penrith, Harry Snelson, Patrick Webb and Robert Wills.

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# Results

Selected spokespersons from each working group were asked to present to the plenary group for discussion. Only the results from Group 1 were discussed in enough depth and agreed by participants so as to be presented in the official report (below).

## **Name, vision and mission for the Platform**

The plenary decided on the name, vision and mission of the Platform through open discussion:

- **Name:** Global Platform for ASF and other important swine diseases.
- **Vision:** A global thriving pig sector contributing to global food security through the prevention and control of ASF and other important diseases of swine.
- **Mission:** Catalyze efforts limiting the impact of ASF and extend the lessons learned to other important swine disease, through a relevant, visible and sustainable global network of all stakeholders.

Although a decision was reached, it was not by consensus. The point of disagreement was in regards to expanding the scope of the Platform to other important diseases of swine or having it focus solely on ASF. Given that lack of consensus it was decided that name, vision and mission would be revised at the next meeting, where a wider representation from all stakeholder groups is expected.

## **Strategic goals**

Group 1 proposed the following strategic goals, based on the goals provided in the concept note developed prior to the meeting. There was not enough time to discuss them in detail and have them endorsed by participants, so the Secretariat (see below) and Group 1 will work on them for their revision and endorsement at the next Platform meeting.

### ***Strategic goals proposed:***

- Provide a global multi stakeholder platform to shape a joint agenda to reduce the threat of ASF and other TADs to global swine production, and support coordination of the many ASF activities and networks.
- Raise awareness of the impact of ASF and the Platform's activities and outputs including web based technologies and communication for outreach.
- Contribute to the provision of adequate tools, guidelines and strategies to improve efficacy and effectiveness of control efforts.
- Foster PPP, involvement of and investment by producers/stakeholders and establish efficient communication channels.
- Provide regional and international cooperation for the exchange of research and sharing of expertise.
- Monitor progress and showcase best practice examples.
- Resource mobilization.
- Strengthening regional implementation.
- Provide capacity development.

### **Membership, governance and other related issues**

The Platform should be established *under the GF-TADs umbrella*. The GF-TADs is a joint FAO/OIE initiative which combines the strengths of both organizations to achieve mutually agreed common objectives. It is a facilitating mechanism which endeavours to empower regional alliances in the fight against TADs, to provide for capacity building and to assist in establishing programmes for the specific control of certain TADs based on regional priorities.

In terms of *membership*, it was agreed that it will be open, i.e. all institutions (or individuals) interested in joining can apply for membership. All members would have the same status (one level of membership). Membership will be based on the signing of a Membership Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or a similar and appropriate agreement document. This agreement document still needs to be drafted (by the Secretariat and specified participants) to be presented at the next meeting for endorsement. The process will be as follows: 1) the Secretariat to send invitations and MoU for membership (or participating institutions will request to take part); and 2) participants will sign the MoU to become member.

In terms of *governance*, the following key elements are foreseen:

- A Secretariat to initiate the Platform and execute the day to day business.
- An Advisory Committee (AC) to give overall advice and guidance. This committee will be tentatively composed of one individual from each of the following groups: 1) AU-IBAR; 2) a regional body to represent Eastern Europe; 3) a research representative (GARA); 4) an Industry representative; 5) one representative from an ASF-free country; and 6) one representative of the hunting and wildlife conservation community. FAO and OIE representatives will attend the meetings of the AC.
- An Executive Committee (EC) to make decisions and give instructions to the Secretariat. The composition of the EC will include FAO and OIE representatives and a restricted number of selected key partners.
- Scientific Committees (SCs) to address specific questions, as needed.
- Thematic Groups (communities) to address special ad hoc issues.

A provisional *secretariat* will be established at FAO with the task to initiate and coordinate the Platform in collaboration with OIE. Specific tasks to be completed before the next meeting will be:

- Organize the meetings of the Platform (including the official launching of the Platform in 2014);
- Prepare a tentative membership plan, including the Membership MoU or an appropriate agreement document;
- Prepare a governance plan, including the terms of reference (ToRs) of the different committees and their composition;
- Contact/bring in other potentially interested members;
- Create and maintain a distribution list;
- Develop a website and logo for the Platform.

Provisional *thematic groups* were established based on the five working groups. These five groups will be in charge to further develop the recommendations on the topics covered and to refine the list of relevant activities to be covered by the Platform in the short and medium term.

In terms of the *coordination with the Global ASF Research Alliance (GARA)*, it was decided that it should be incorporated within the Platform.

The *launching of the Global Platform for ASF and other important swine diseases* will take place at the next meeting (within 2014). This meeting will have the following objectives:

- Revise and endorse the name, vision and mission of the Platform.
- Refine and endorse the strategic goals of the Platform.
- Decide on the composition of the AC, EC and SCs.
- Decide and endorse the membership plan and MoU.
- Decide and endorse the action plan for years 1 and 2.
- Decide on the thematic groups and their scope.

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## Summary of recommendations

1. The participants agreed on the importance of creating a Global ASF Platform.
2. The vision and mission concepts of the Platform were endorsed by the majority of present participants under the agreement that both will be reviewed at the next Platform meeting.
3. The Platform will be established under the GF-TADs umbrella.
4. All participants of the Platform will be members with the same status within the Platform (one level of membership).
5. A provisional Secretariat will be established at FAO with the task to initiate and coordinate the Platform and prepare background documentation for the launching in 2014.
6. An Executive Committee and an Advisory Committee will be established.
7. Thematic groups will be established based on the five working groups.
8. The Global ASF Research Alliance (GARA) will be integrated within the Platform.



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ANNEX 1  
**Participants**



*The Global Platform for African swine fever and other important diseases of swine*

Type	Institution	Participant name	Email address
Government	Agricultural Research Service (ARS-USDA), USA	Cyril Gay	Cyril.Gay@ARS.USDA.GOV
	Animal Health Division, Japan	Akihito Furuta	akihito_furuta@nm.maff.go.jp
	Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), USA	Gavin Braunstein	Gavin.Braunstein@DTRA.MIL
	Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), USA	Jean Richards	Jean.Richards@DTRA.MIL
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Veterinary Public Health Food Safety and Collegial Bodies for Health Protection, Italy	Pier Giuseppe Facelli	pg.facelli@sanita.it	
Industry	American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV), USA	Harry Snelson	snelson@aasv.org
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	World Veterinary Association (WVA)	Jan Vaarten	jan@worldvet.org
International	African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU - IBAR)	Henry Wamwayi	henry.wamwayi@au-ibar.org
	Directorate General for Health & Consumers - European Commission (DG SANCO)	Alberto Laddomada	Alberto.Laddomada@ec.europa.eu

*The Global Platform for African swine fever and other important diseases of swine*

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	Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Germany	Günther Keil	Guenther.Keil@fli.bund.de
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	International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya	Richard Bishop	r.bishop@cgiar.org
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	Mississippi State University, USA	Robert Wills	wills@cvm.msstate.edu

*The Global Platform for African swine fever and other important diseases of swine*

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Type	Institution	Participant name	Email address
Research	National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD), USA	Lindsey Holmstrom	lholmstrom@tvmdl.tamu.edu
	National Research Institute for Veterinary Virology and Microbiology (VNIIIVViM), Russian Federation	Denis Kolbasov	kolbasovdenis@gmail.com
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	Pirbright Institute, UK	David Paton	david.paton@pirbright.ac.uk
	Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM), Spain	José Manuel Sánchez-Vizcaíno	jmvizcaino@visavet.ucm.es
	University of Pretoria, South Africa	Mary Louise Penrith	marylouise@vodamail.co.za

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ANNEX 2  
**Agenda**

FAO HQ, ROME 5-7 NOVEMBER 2013



## AGENDA

LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL  
PLATFORM FOR AFRICAN SWINE  
FEVER AND OTHER PIG DISEASES

Philippines Room (C-277)





## DAY 1: 5 November 2013

<b>8:30 - 9:00</b>	Registration of participants - coffee	
<b>9:00 - 9:10</b>	Welcome address (10 min)	B. Tekola, FAO
<b>9:10 - 9:25</b>	Importance of international cooperation for TADs control (15 min)	K. Sumption, EuFMD
<b>9:25 - 9:45</b>	Overview of the agenda and meeting objectives (20 min)	D. Beltrán-Alcrudo, FAO

### SETTING THE SCENE - Chair: E. Okoth, ILRI

<b>09:45 - 12:30</b>	Brief overview of ASF epidemiology and situation (25 min)	M.L. Penrith, University of Pretoria
	A success story: ASF eradication from the Iberian Peninsula (25 min)	J.M. Sánchez-Vizcaino, UCM
	Coffee break (20 min)	
	The pig industry and the ASF challenge (40 min)	S. Tsigadi, Farmers Choice; K. Tarasiuk, GENUS PIC; H. Clarke, BPEX and P. Webb, National Pork Board
	The issue of wild board (15 min)	D. Beltrán-Alcrudo, FAO
	The challenge of ASF prevention and control in low biosecurity systems and wild hosts (40 min)	M.L. Penrith, University of Pretoria
<b>12:30 - 13:30</b>	Lunch (1 hour)	

### ASF STATUS, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES AROUND THE WORLD - Chair: J. Richards, DTRA

<b>13:30 - 15:35</b>	Eastern Africa (20 min)	N. Nantima, MAAIF, Uganda
	Western Africa (20 min)	C. Ndongo, DSV, Cameroun
	Eastern Europe (Russian Federation) (20 min)	E. Nepoklonov, Min. of Agriculture of the Russian Federation
	East and Southeast Asia (China) (15 min)	W. Zhiliang, CAHEC
	Coffee break (20 min)	
	America - The US perspective on ASF (15 min)	C. Gay, ARS-USDA
	EU (15 min)	A. Laddomada, DG SANCO

### RESEARCH SESSION - Chair: K. Stahl, SVA

<b>15:35 - 17:00</b>	Introduction to GARA and the ASF gap analysis (20 min)	C. Gay, ARS-USDA
	Research gaps - Diagnostics (15 min)	M. Arias, CISA
	Research gaps - Vaccines (15 min)	R. Bishop, ILRI
	Research gaps - Epidemiology (15 min)	J.M. Sánchez-Vizcaino, UCM
	IAEA research activities, e.g. CRP (22 min)	H. Unger, IAEA
	ASFORCE (10 min)	E. Etter, CIRAD
<b>17:00</b>	<b>Closing of the 1st day</b>	
<b>17:15</b>	Cocktail at FAO terrace	

## DAY 2: 6 November 2013

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### **EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES** - *Chairman: A. El Idrissi, FAO*

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- 09:00 - 10:15** Presentation of the African ASF Strategy (30 min) H. Wamwayi, AU-IBAR  
ASF Regional sub-networks (15 min) G. Dauphin, FAO  
The Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) (15 min) F. Biancifiori, GF-TADs  
ASF prevention and control: the OIE position and activities (15 min) J. Domenech and D. Rassow, OIE  
EU (15 min) A. Laddomada, DG SANCO
- 10:15 - 10:35 Coffee break and group photo (20 min)

### **LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE** - *Moderator: K. Sumption, EuFMD*

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- 10:35 - 11:35** The Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) - a success story (15 min) F. Njeumi, FAO  
Discussion session with a panel of experts: GREP, GF-TADs, OFFLU, Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock and others on the floor (45 min)

### **WORKING GROUPS** - *Moderator: K. Sumption, EuFMD*

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- 11:35 - 12:15** Selection of topics and guidelines for the working groups (40 min)  
**12:15 - 13:15** Lunch (1 hour)  
**13:15 - 14:25** Working group discussions (1h 10 min)  
**14:25 - 14:45** Coffee break (20 min)  
**14:45 - 16:55** Reporting of Working groups and discussion (2h 10 min)  
**17:00** **Closing of the 2nd day**  
**20:00** Dinner (directions on the last page)

## DAY 3: 7 November 2013

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### **BUILDING THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR ASF** - *Moderator: C. Gay, USDA*

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- 09:00 - 12:20** Open discussion: Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals (45 min) Presented by the Working Group  
Open discussion: Proposed Structure (membership, executive committee, stakeholders and sponsors, need for a MoU) (45 min) Presented by the Working Group  
Coffee break (20 min)  
Activities of the platform (45 min)  
Steps forward (45 min)
- 12:20 - 12:30** **Closing of the meeting**

ONLINE PUBLICATION SERIES  
**FAO ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND HEALTH REPORT**

1. Impact of animal nutrition on animal welfare – Expert Consultation, 26–30 September 2011, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. 2012 (E)  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3148e/i3148e00.pdf>
2. FAO's support to the One Health regional approach towards integrated and effective animal health–food safety surveillance capacity development in Eastern Africa. 2013 (E)  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3391e/i3391e.pdf>
3. Characterization and value addition to local breeds and their products in the Near East and North Africa – Regional Workshop, Rabat, Morocco, 19-21 November 2012 (E)  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/019/i3622e/i3622e.pdf>
4. The Global Platform for African swine fever and other important diseases of swine - Rome, Italy, 5-7 November 2013 (E)  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep>

Availability: April 2014

E - English  
F - French  
\*\* In preparation



Find more publications at  
<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/resources/en/publications.html>

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