



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

National African Swine Fever (ASF) workshop on wild boar and hunting biosecurity

Belgrade, Serbia, 24 May 2019

Venue: Belgrade, Bulevar Zorana Djindjića 64

Language: English/Serbian

Background:

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, ASF was introduced into Georgia in 2007, from where it progressively spread westwards (reaching Eastern and Central Europe) and eastwards. The disease was reported in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania in 2018, seriously threatening the Balkans. Based on experience, in Europe, the wild boar plays a crucial role in the maintenance and the spread of the disease.

To date, the Balkans have not been exposed to ASF. The lack of experiencing the disease first hand implies that the awareness among stakeholders and the technical knowledge on the disease would require further improvement and disease surveillance and control strategies should be harmonized with current experience and scientific knowledge on the disease.

In order to aid the Balkan region in their preparedness against African Swine Fever (ASF), an emergency TCP was launched (TCP/RER/3704) in November 2018. The inception workshop was held on 18-21 February 2019, where several topics were identified one of which was to assist the countries in relation to wild boar and hunting biosecurity in relation to ASF.

For this purpose National ASF Workshops on Wild boar and hunting biosecurity are launched for each recipient country.

Objective

The primary objective of the workshop is to understand and give recommendations to Serbia on their national control strategy to prevent, early detect, conduct surveillance and, if cases are found, how to control ASF in wild boar. The secondary objective is to share experience and technical knowledge on ASF in wild boar and hunting biosecurity.

Participants

The target group are national stakeholders involved in overall strategy for ASF in wild boar and related fields: game management and hunting. The list of participants is determined by the National Project Coordinator (NPC) but the recommended number of participants is between 10 – 20 people (maximum 20).

We recommend that the following stakeholder are present:

- National Project Coordinator (NPC)
- Central level veterinary service responsible for ASF strategy development and supervision of implementation
- Representatives for central level authority responsible for game management and hunting
- Representatives central level authority responsible for forestry management if different from above
- Representatives of public enterprises and/or hunting associations (users of hunting grounds)
- Experts on wild boar from academia, scientific institutes, etc.
- Serbian participants attending Regional African Swine Fever (ASF) Wild Boar Management Workshop, 21-23 May, 2019, Belgrade, Serbia

Topics to be covered

Game management of wild boar

- Current game management system in Serbia and changes due to ASF
- Changes in shooting of number of wild boar in a specific territory and/or specific quotas for sex and/or age group
- Current value chain of wild boar meat and products (wild boar -> meat -> product -> consumer)
- Changes regarding dead wild boar: search methods, disposal methods, sampling methods, reporting methods, and economic incentives

Hunting of wild boar – hunting biosecurity

- Type of hunting allowed (individual, group, driven) in peace time and after disease confirmation for wild boar and interaction with hunting of other species
- Place and method of evisceration and dressing of wild boar (offal management)
- Testing and sampling of shot wild boar (where is it currently applied)
- Chilling of carcasses, restriction of carcass movement in high risk areas

Awareness raising

- Changes due to ASF in general, but most importantly, hunting biosecurity
- Reporting dead wild boar (passive surveillance)
- Ways to disseminate information to public/hunters after ASF wild boar confirmation

Training of hunters

- Current/future role of hunters in Serbia
- Methods of training hunters (face-to-face, online)
- Content of training material (ASF in general, epidemiology, hunting biosecurity, etc.).

Supervision and strategy implementation

- Funding of the ASF strategy
- Supervision of shooting quotas and its effect
- Monitoring system for wild boar cases and overall surveillance
- Supervision of hunting grounds related to changes (disposal, sampling, chilling, products etc.).