

G7 Chief Veterinary Officers' Forum, September 2023

Chair's Summary

Background

During the Japan G7 Presidency we, the Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) and representatives of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, along with the European Commission, World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), met on 21st September 2023 in Tokyo to discuss the pressing challenges posed by African Swine Fever (ASF), Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Acknowledging the shared global burden these present to our economies, public health and food security, we stand united in our commitment to combatting ASF, AMR and HPAI to safeguard animal health, ensure food security, and mitigate the impact of these threats globally.

Discussion included the following:

African Swine Fever

● **Biosecurity, Surveillance and Capacity Building**

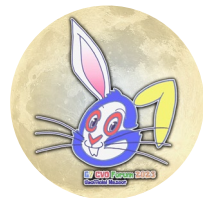
We acknowledge the imperative of building resilient and sustainable animal health systems. Strengthening animal health capacities, including robust biosecurity, effective surveillance and early warning systems, are essential to reducing the impact of ASF, which can be spread by wild boars, contaminated products, live animals and human factors.

● **Farming Systems and Zoning**

The challenges posed by diversity of farming systems, including backyard operations, necessitate tailored strategies. We support the use of successful approaches, such as preventive depopulation, to mitigate disease spread. Zoning, as an effective control tool beyond the farm level while preventing disruption of trade, should be adaptable to disease epidemiology and local circumstances. Further discussion on compartmentalization might be beneficial.

● **Vaccine Development**

ASF stands as a significant threat to global pork production, lacking a viable vaccine despite rigorous scientific efforts. Even while an ASF vaccine could be within our grasp, careful deliberation should be made before field application, including safety evaluations and



establishment of vigilant monitoring framework to avoid risks associated with suboptimal vaccines. National governments and international organizations play a pivotal role in fostering the advancement of ASF vaccine development. Financial support for research and development by governments, along with application of international standards on approval and licensing, can be key initiatives.

- **Awareness and Preparedness**

We emphasize the critical importance of raising awareness and cooperation about ASF among stakeholders, including farmers, hunters, veterinarians, importers, and border control officials. Enhanced understanding of disease features, surveillance information, clinical signs, differential diagnosis, and biosecurity measures is essential for early detection and response. Furthermore, we acknowledge the value of updated and adaptable contingency plans to effectively manage outbreaks.

- **International Cooperation**

We affirm the significance of international cooperation in combatting ASF. Platforms like the FAO/WOAH Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) facilitate information exchange and experience sharing. We commit to supporting and strengthening international cooperation mechanisms to enhance preparedness and response at regional and global level.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

- **Disease prevention**

We reiterate the importance of disease prevention to reduce the use of antimicrobials. We also emphasize the need to strengthen biosecurity measures for disease prevention. We are committed to supporting the development of vaccines and the stable supply of high-quality approved vaccines as a necessary tool for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals to shift from treatment to prevention.

- **Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials**

We are committed to supporting veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals as they play a crucial role in the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in animals. Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals require rapid and cost-effective diagnostic tools and the education and experience using those tools to diagnose illness in animals, which will in turn assist in their selection of appropriate antimicrobials to treat sick animals.



Enhancing the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials also requires an understanding of antimicrobial resistance issues by all stakeholders, not only by veterinarians. For this reason, we will drive forward an understanding of the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials by all stakeholders including livestock producers, pet owners and consumers.

- **Promotion of One Health Approach**

It is no secret that for a sustainable future, everyone, in all sectors, need to work together in the fight against AMR to maintain the efficacy of antimicrobials. We will support the strengthening and sharing of integrated “One Health” surveillance and use all available tools, such as genomic analysis to determine the epidemiological relationships between bacterial strains among humans, animals, and their environment.

- **Promotion of international cooperation and collaboration**

We affirm the importance of international cooperation in the fight against antimicrobial resistance. We will continue to support international collaboration by the Quadripartite, including consideration of supporting Multi-Partner Trust Fund, at regional and global levels.

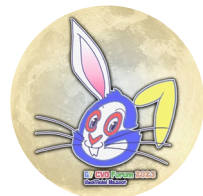
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

- **Current Challenges and Shared Concerns**

The recent global surge in HPAI outbreaks has had profound socio-economic implications on poultry industry, and Animal Health Services, as well as environmental impacts on wildlife population at an unprecedented level. This underscores the evolving nature of this disease. We acknowledge the complex interplay between migratory birds, farming environments and wildlife in disseminating the virus. We also recognize the significance of HPAI's potential zoonotic transmission, necessitating One Health approach to safeguarding animal, human and ecosystem health.

- **Enhancing Biosecurity and Surveillance**

We endorse the notion that stringent biosecurity measures remain the cornerstone of HPAI prevention. By bolstering on-farm biosecurity, including wildlife deterrence and preventing wild birds from accessing open waters on/near the premises, and adopting innovative strategies informed by epidemiological study, we can substantially reduce the risk of incursion and lateral transmission as well as decrease the impact of culling. Robust surveillance systems need to include nationwide and targeted monitoring of wild bird populations, providing early warning capabilities crucial for a timely response. In this regard we also encourage the sustained use of



effective tools such as WAHIS to ensure prompt information sharing at the global level. We commend the OFFLU for its work in risk analysis and information sharing.

- **Vaccination as a complementary tool**

We emphasize that vaccination in accordance with the WOA standards is a complementary disease control tool that is based on sound surveillance and takes into account local factors. Ongoing vaccination trials and planned field vaccinations in some countries underscore the importance of data-driven decisions and sharing information. As we advance, we commit to evaluating vaccination outcomes as part of risk assessment and their alignment with our objectives to protect both poultry and wild populations as well as human while maintaining safe international trade.

- **International Cooperation and Global strategy**

Our commitment to international cooperation is highlighted by joint efforts among international organizations and national authorities. In this regard, we laud the commitment of the Quadripartite in orchestrating global coordination. We also reaffirm our dedication to the ongoing revision of HPAI global strategy led by the WOA and FAO.