

A rapid qualitative toolkit for assessing perceptions and recommendations of smallholder pig value chain actors regarding biosecurity measures for African swine fever (ASF) in Uganda

Background

ASF pose a big constraint to the smallholder pig production because of its high mortality rate. Though many farmers are threatened by the disease, there is no adequate information about the level of risk of disease spread along the pig value chain (from the input suppliers to the consumers). It is against this background that this tool is designed in order to assess knowledge, attitude, practices and recommendations on biosecurity measures of value chain actors using Key Informant Interviews (KII) with key stakeholders and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with value chain actors that include input suppliers (vets, drug and feed stockists, pig breeders), pig producers, extension staff, collectors and bulkers, transporters, wholesalers, retailers, processors, and consumers.

Objectives

- 1) Identify the key management and operational functions identified by value chain actors as having the potential to affect the risk of ASF transmission among farms
- 2) Have participants identify economically and logistically feasible operational approaches that are expected to reduce the potential risk of disease transmission and dissemination

Group sessions

a. Key Informant Interviews

One key informant group exercise will be organized in each district. Key informants will be constituted by community and expert opinion leaders who will be invited in a half day workshop. The invited participants will be expected to have knowledge about the disease and most of them would have responsibilities in relation to animal diseases in their communities. Among these, Local Council members, area veterinary officers, pig farmers cooperative leader, women leader, district commercial officer, police officers, district veterinary officer, a community youth leader, the district production secretary, butchers' leader and the traders' group leaders.

b. Focus Group Discussions

FGDs will be undertaken with all value chain actors: farmers, communal village boar keepers, veterinary service providers, drug stockists, feed stockists, traders and butchers/pork joint owners. In each category 8 individuals will be invited to the session, except for farmers where 40 will be invited (20 from the rural and 20 from the urban areas). Half of the farmers will be men and another half female. Both men and women will be interviewed separated in order to capture gender related issues. FGDs sessions will be conducted for each group and sessions will be facilitated by trained local staff together with the project's staff.

Themes discussed during FGDs and key informant interviews

1. Knowledge of ASF

Purpose: Here, the participants will be asked about their knowledge of the ASF disease. This will include description of characteristics like the local name of the disease, its clinical signs, the main route of transmission and dissemination, its treatment, prevention measures and the main effect of the disease on pigs.

Tool: listing

Material: Flip chart, masking tape, marker, ruler

2. Hotspots of ASF along the value chain

Purpose: With the aid of a value chain map, the participants will be asked to discuss among themselves, the hotspots for ASF transmission along the value chain and reach a consensus about which value chain nodes rank highest in the spread of the disease (within and between nodes)

Tool: Proportional piling

Material: A large sheet of paper, masking tape, marker, ruler, counters (beans or stone)

3. Current implemented biosecurity protocols and related issues

Purpose: the objective of this theme is to know the current biosecurity practices of value chain actors and their effectiveness and challenges.

Tool: listing

Material: A large sheet of paper, masking tape, marker and ruler

Data capture

Current biosecurity practices	Effectiveness		If YES what is the indicator of effectiveness	If No, why?
	Yes	No		

4. Constraints faced by VC actors in the prevention and control of ASF outbreaks

Purpose: Here, the participants will be guided through identification of the main constraints to prevention and control of ASF outbreaks and the use of pairwise comparison to determine which of those constraints are the most important. Five major constraints will be selected by each focus group.

Tool: Listing and Matrix/ pair-wise comparison

Materials: Value chain map; a large sheet of paper; pictures to indicate various potential constraints; coloured markers.

Facilitator: We'd like to talk about the different problems that affect the control and prevention of ASF in your area

- Brainstorm on the constraints to ASF control and prevention

- Develop a matrix with constraints along the top and side
- Ask farmers to compare the top and side to say which is most important, in order to gain an understanding of priority constraints.
- The result of the comparison is written in the blank field

At the end, count the number of times each constraint was selected. The constraint that will be selected the most times is ranked highest.

Data capture

Constraints	A	B	C	D	E	Number of preferences
A						
B						
C						
D						
E						

5. Perception of VC actors of their own constraints and opportunities

Purpose: For this section, the participants will review the constraints identified above and will be tasked with coming up with opportunities for tackling these problems in terms of what should be done, who should do it, and how it could get done.

Tool: Problem opportunity matrix

Materials: A large sheet of paper; coloured markers.

Facilitator: We would like to hear your ideas about what could be done to improve the control of ASF in your area. To organize our ideas, let’s focus on the top 5 health issues that were identified earlier. Let’s create general categories to describe the problems related to these five ASF control issues and we’ll write them on a chart.

[Go through each issue one-by-one following this order.] Starting with this first problem, what constraints do you face as farmers? What solutions do you have that could improve the situation, including what should be done, who should do it, and how it could get done? Finally, what initiatives are you aware of that have already been done to address this issue? What was the level of success/failure of the initiative?

Example of what the problem-opportunity matrix will look like

	Constraint 1	Constraint 2	Constraint 3	Constraint 4	Constraint 5
Constraint					

What is being done?					
What was the level of success of the initiative?					
What was the level of failure of the initiative?					
What more can be done?					
Who has to do it?					
How it can be done?					

Facilitator: We are almost done. We have just a couple more questions. What services on ASF control would you like to see go forward? What would be most helpful for you as VC actor? (Hand count). Would you be willing to pay for such a service? (Zero-in on the common one)

6. Recommendation for biosecurity measures

Purpose: For this exercise, participants will be requested to deliberate on and recommend likely biosecurity measures against ASF, ranking them according to their effectiveness in ASF control (how relevant are these recommendations to the control of the disease?), the ease of implementation (how easy are these recommendation to be implemented?), gender responsiveness (can men implement this recommendation equally than women?) and economic feasibility (expensive or affordable). For these parameters, the scale will be high for positive rating (i.e. very easy, very effective, gender responsive, very feasible) and low for negative rating (hard to implement, ineffective, gender irresponsible or expensive). It would be also pertinent to tag a timeline to these measures to illustrate how soon they could be implemented. The scale here will be short (for 0 to 3years), medium (3 to 5 years) and long (more than 5 years) terms.

Tool: Listing

Materials: A large sheet of paper; coloured markers.

Data capture

Recommendation	Who is responsible in the VC?	Effectiveness (rate between High, medium, low)				Timeline (long, medium or short term)
		Disease control	Ease of implementation	Economic feasibility	Gender responsive	

7. Recommendations for behavioural changes

Purpose: For the last exercise, the participants will be taken through a self-evaluation where they identify common practices or habits that they or their colleagues do intentionally or inadvertently, posing great risk to the transmission of ASF. They will be asked to further suggest ways of changing their behaviour and identify any foreseen barriers to this behavioural change.

Tool: listing

Materials: a large sheet of paper; coloured markers.

Intentional habits and practices posing great risk to the transmission of ASF	Suggestions for changing behaviours	Any foreseen barrier for behavioural change

ANNEX 1: Example of value chain map in Uganda



