

African Swine Fever

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African Swine Fever Latest News

Scientists at ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD), Bhopal, recently developed India's first indigenous MA-104_Cell_Line-Based Live Attenuated African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccine for pigs.

About African Swine Fever

- It is a **highly contagious viral disease affecting pigs and wild boar.**
- It is **caused by the African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV)**, a DNA virus from the Asfarviridae family.
- Characterised by **high fever, haemorrhages, and mortality rates** that may approach **100 percent**, the disease has caused severe **socio-economic losses** to the global pig farming sector.
- The disease **does not infect humans** (not zoonotic) **or other livestock species.**

African Swine Fever Global Distribution

- **Originally found** throughout **sub-Saharan Africa**, ASF is **now prevalent in many countries** in **Europe, Asia, and Africa.**

- **India** notified the **first outbreak** of the ASF virus in January **2020** in the Northeastern States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Since its first detection in India, ASF has spread to several States and Union Territories.

African Swine Fever Transmission

- The **virus is highly resistant** in the environment, meaning that it can **survive on clothes, boots, wheels**, and other materials.
- It can also **survive in various pork products**, such as ham, sausages, or bacon.
- Therefore, human behaviours can play an important role in spreading this disease.
- **Infection** can occur through **direct contact between infected pigs or boars** but also, for example, **through soft ticks** in (sub)tropical regions or **through contaminated materials** or contaminated **feed**.

African Swine Fever Symptoms

- The clinical signs of ASF can vary but are similar to some other pig diseases. Signs typically occur 3-15 days after infection.
- The **early signs** are non-specific and include:
 - **High fever, lethargy, and loss of appetite.**
 - **Pigs may die suddenly** without further disease signs.
- At **later stages**, further signs may be observed including
 - **Reddening of the skin** (visible only in pale-skinned pigs), with **patches** appearing on the tips of ears, tail, feet, chest, or under the belly.
 - Diarrhoea, vomiting
 - Laboured breathing
 - **Swollen red eyes, eye discharge**
 - **Abortions, still-births**
 - **Increasing morbidity** and unwillingness to get up
- **In severe cases, death** can sometimes be the **only sign of infection**.

African Swine Fever Treatment

Currently, there is **no treatment available** against ASF, so **prevention** by adopting **strict biosecurity measures**, such as culling the animals, is the only way to prevent ASF.

African Swine Fever Prevention

- A **couple of commercially licensed ASF vaccines** are available in **Vietnam**.
- ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (**ICAR-NIHSAD**), **Bhopal**, recently developed **India's first indigenous MA-104_Cell_Line-Based Live Attenuated ASF vaccine** for pigs.

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