

Mexico, host country of the international workshop for Focal Points of the World Organization of Animal Health

More than 65 specialists in African swine fever will exchange information in order to improve the capabilities of laboratories, veterinary services, biosafety, surveillance and diagnose.



With a view to countries of the American continent exchange information and strengthen their prevention schemes against the risk posed by African Swine Fever (ASF), Mexico will be the host country of the Regional Workshop for Focal Points of the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) for Veterinary and Epidemiologic Laboratories of Swine Diseases: ASF – Training for the action.

The event will take place on December 2-6, in Mexico City, and more than 65 specialists of 31 countries of the American continent will participate in it.

The current situation of the ASF requires to address and put into action an effective strategic management of the disease, prevention and surveillance globally and nationally, with special emphasis in areas free of ASF, such as America.

This workshop will allow participants to reinforce the capabilities of national veterinary services and laboratories on issues like bioprotection, biosafety, surveillance and diagnose techniques in the context of the training to deal with health emergencies, such as ASF.

Additionally, the workshop will cause the exchange of experiences and discussion among countries of the region aimed to provide governance concepts aimed to improve the animals' health and welfare, and contribute to food security nationally and globally.

In May of 2008, the OIE decided that delegates of each country would designate experts in different issues, so they may support the actions of the organism on specific topics. These specialists were denominated by National Focal Points.

This workshop is added to the activities that the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) has developed in order to strengthen the capabilities to prevent the entrance of ASF to Mexico. These

activities include the Mega simulation exercise on ASF and the participation of Mexican veterinary services in the two meetings on ASF in North America, held in Ottawa, Canada and Bahía de Banderas, Mexico.