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Community-led biosecurity: A key to African swine fever prevention

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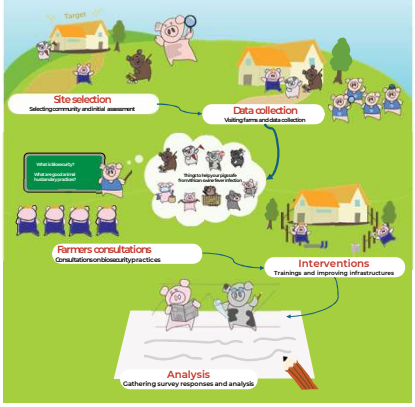
African swine fever (ASF) is a deadly and incurable disease that poses a severe threat to pig farmers worldwide. Smallholder farmers are particularly vulnerable due to limited biosecurity measures, increasing the risk of outbreaks.

FAO launched the **Community ASF Biosecurity Interventions (CABI)** to address these challenges in February 2022 in North Cotabato, Philippines. The initiative promotes **community-driven and participatory approaches** to encourage **long-term adoption of biosecurity practices** and reduce ASF transmission among smallholder pig farmers.

Strengthening biosecurity is crucial to:
✅ **Protecting livelihoods**
✅ **Ensuring food security**
✅ **Maintaining business continuity**

Figure 1. The CABI Process.



(Source: Authors' elaboration)

What is CABI?

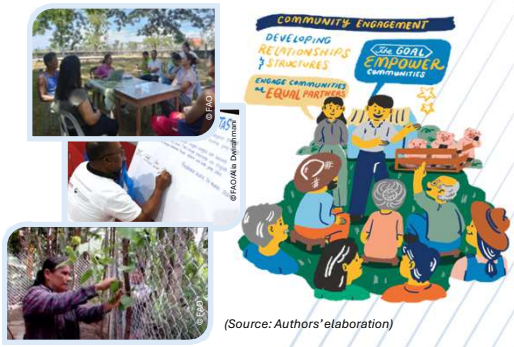
CABI is a **collaborative, farmer-led approach** that empowers communities to implement **practical, low-cost biosecurity solutions** to prevent ASF.

🔷 **Innovation Platforms** – Farmers, veterinarians, animal health officers, and local government officials co-develop **tailored biosecurity measures** that suit their community's needs.

🔷 **Practical Biosecurity Solutions** – Low-cost interventions such as **footbaths, fencing, and handwashing stations** improve on-farm hygiene.

🔷 **Continuous Learning & Adaptation** – Regular farmer discussions with animal health officials help **refine and sustain** biosecurity practices.

Figure 2. Graphic summary and photos of CABI outcomes during a workshop.



(Source: Authors' elaboration)

Results and impact

📌 **Increased ASF Awareness**
→ Within **three months**, farmers in **Sagcungan Village, North Cotabato** significantly improved their understanding of ASF prevention.

📌 **ASF-Free Villages**
→ While nearby areas faced ASF outbreaks, **Sagcungan remained ASF-free**, demonstrating CABI's effectiveness.

📌 **Adoption & Expansion**
→ Neighbouring villages voluntarily replicated CABI's biosecurity measures.

📌 **Government Support**
→ Inspired by the program's success, some **local governments allocated funding** to expand biosecurity interventions.

Figure 3. CABI regional coverage.

Key lessons and takeaways

✓ **Farmers as Leaders** – Engaging farmers in designing biosecurity solutions increases long-term adoption.

✓ **Collaboration is Key** – Partnerships with veterinarians, government agencies, and local leaders strengthen intervention success.

✓ **Scalability & Sustainability** – CABI's success across multiple countries highlights its potential for wider adoption.

🚜 **Community-led biosecurity strategies** empower farmers, ensuring ASF prevention and **stronger, more resilient livestock systems.**

Regional reach

CABI has been successfully piloted in:
✅ **Indonesia**
✅ **Lao People's Democratic Republic**
✅ **The Philippines**
📍 **(383 farmers directly benefited)**

However, pilot programmes in **Cambodia and Thailand** (196 farmers) were discontinued midway due to unforeseen circumstances.

Next steps and recommendations

Enhancing farmer training and awareness.

📍 Expanding partnerships for support.

📍 Scaling up community biosecurity interventions.

📍 Expanding CABI to include all species.

Learn More

CABI Brochure

CABI story

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