Swine network

Swine transboundary and emerging diseases

South-east Asia is one of the largest pig producing regions in the world. In the various countries pig farming systems are not equally represented: production types range from backyard to highly bio-secured commercial systems. These systems are constrained or threatened by diverse diseases driven by different risk factors and consequently need well-adapted control strategies.

Transboundary diseases like classical swine fever (CSF) or Foot- and-Mouth Disease (FMD) are still a priority in the region. But even if the diseases themselves are globally well-managed, the control especially at backyard level remains difficult and requires integrated approaches linking eco-epidemiology, economics, modelling, etc. Other Transboundary Animal Diseases and Emerging Infectious Diseases are as well occurring in the region – e.g. Swine influenza, Japanese encephalitis (JE), HP-PRRS (Highly Pathogenic Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome), PED (Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea), Streptococcus suis infection, etc. – but patterns, socioeconomic impacts and means for a better control should be studied. Furthermore, possible contacts among backyard pigs, scavenging pigs and wild boars could lead to the emergence and/or spread of new diseases and need to be investigated using ecological and epidemiological tools. Some other diseases are neglected such as parasitic diseases (e.g. trichinellosis, cysticercosis) and are certainly underestimated.

Finally, the current health situation of the pig population in Southeast Asia is actually difficult to estimate. To control and manage animal and zoonotic diseases, surveillance systems, including mechanisms for early detection of disease outbreaks, and control issues have to be improved at national and regional levels. Strong collaborations between veterinary and public health specialists are also needed. In this context, GREASE could be seen as the tool for enhancing cooperation between countries and among teams working on animal and zoonotic diseases.