



Better Training for Safer Food *Initiative*

Contingency planning and effectiveness

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BTSEF

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Contingency plan

Outline

- Introduction;
- The African swine fever contingency plan;
- Verification of effectiveness of a Contingency Plan;
- Conclusions.



What is a contingency plan?

- a plan to ensure that a country or region is prepared for an emergency;
- consist information on resources, legislative and administrative aspects;
- consist description of policies, strategies and procedures for effective disease control measures to one or more high-threat transmissible animal diseases;

An ASF contingency plan should be a well-articulated strategy document designed to define actions to be taken in the event of an ASF emergency!



Contingency planning

- Dynamic process, focused on preparation and is flexible;
- It is integrated into on-going operational planning activities;
- It provides useful input to emergency managers;
- It is an integral part of preparedness activities!

Importance of the Contingency plan

Contingency planning is an ongoing process...



The objectives of having contingency plans include:

- to reduce the impact of disease outbreaks on the health of the national animal herd;
- to minimize disruption to trade and the society in the event of a zoonotic disease to increase the protection of human health.

The current EU CP legislation

- Differences in wording, phrasing, scope, depth, details and structure of the requirements for contingency planning (not necessarily related to the specific disease conditions);
- The new EU Animal Health Law will contain general provisions for Contingency Plans.



The ASF Contingency plan

Legal aspects (European Union):

- Council Directive 2002/60/EC
- Articles 21 & 22
- Annex VI



<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>



European Commission

The ASF Contingency plan

8
EN 180-119

FAO ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND HEALTH



manual

PREPARATION OF
AFRICAN SWINE FEVER
CONTINGENCY PLANS



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Home > Animal health in the World > The World Animal Health Information System > National Disease Contingency Plans

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Disease Emergency Preparedness

In order to encourage OIE Member Countries to share their experiences in developing national contingency plans, this page publishes some generic and disease specific national contingency plans of some Member Countries.

Simulation exercises of OIE Member Countries are usually used to put in practice developed contingency plans for animal diseases. Most of the time they include theoretical and practical training aimed at applying emergency measures in compliance with their contingency plans. All simulation exercises received from Member Countries are disseminated on the web and can be viewed at Disease introduction simulation exercises dedicated page.



- WAHIS interface
- Online bookshop
- For the media
- OIE world conferences
- Documentary database

Specific National Disease Contingency Plans for terrestrial animal diseases

Diseases	Countries / Territories
African horse sickness	Australia, Netherlands, Spain
African swine fever	Australia, Spain
Avian influenza	Australia, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Ireland, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Spain, Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay
Bluetongue	Australia, United Kingdom, Cyprus, Netherlands, Spain
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy	Australia, Chile, Uruguay
Classical swine fever	Australia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain
Foot and mouth disease	Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, United States of America, Uruguay
Lumpy skin disease	Australia, Netherlands, Spain
Newcastle disease	Australia, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Netherlands, Spain
Peste des petits ruminants	Australia, Spain
Rinderpest	Australia, Netherlands, Spain, Tanzania
Rift Valley fever	Australia, Netherlands, Spain
Scrapie	Australia
Sheep pox and goat pox	Australia, Netherlands, Spain
Small hive beetle (<i>Aethina tumida</i>)	Costa Rica, Spain
Swine vesicular disease	Australia, Netherlands, Spain
Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy	Chile, Cyprus
Vesicular stomatitis	Australia, Spain
West Nile fever	Spain

Contingency plans

An African swine fever (ASF) contingency plan should be a well-articulated strategy document that defines actions to be taken in the event of an ASF emergency.

It should contain details of the resources needed to meet such an emergency, and an action plan for rapid, efficient deployment of human and material resources for effective containment of the disease and elimination of infection...



Contingency plans

1. Each Member State shall draw up a contingency plan specifying the national measures to be implemented in the event of an outbreak of African swine fever, taking into account local factors, such as, in particular, the density of pigs, which are likely to influence the spread of African swine fever. This plan shall allow access to facilities, equipment, personnel and all other appropriate materials necessary for the rapid and efficient eradication of the outbreak...

3. The Commission shall examine the plans in order to determine whether they permit the desired objective to be attained and shall suggest to the Member State concerned any amendments required, in particular to ensure that they are compatible with those of the other Member States.

The plans may be subsequently amended or supplemented,, to take into account developments in the situation....

Contingency Plan

Development of plan

- One person / Veterinary Service Unit responsible;
- Usage a “task force” for draft preparation;
- Consultations of other Government Institutions and of all major stakeholders;
- Adoption and distribution of plan.



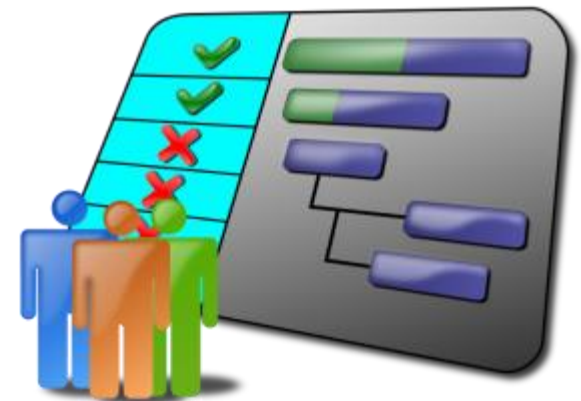
Why Me?



Structure of National Contingency plan

A contingency plan often consists / should consist of:

- a resource plan;
- a specific disease contingency plan;
- an operational manual.





European
Commission

- **Preparation of ASF contingency plan**

- **Direct & indirect transmission**

Hazard

Pathway

Mitigation

Risk

- **Legislation**
- **Prevention**
- **Eradication**

- **Qualitative & quantitative risks**

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Contingency plans - EU Guidelines

1. Legal powers
2. Financial provisions
3. The chain of command
4. Establish the national disease control centre
5. The local disease control centres
6. Laboratory
7. Communications
8. Expert groups
9. Provision for adequate resources
10. Instruction manual
11. Training
12. Alarm drills
13. Publicity/ disease awareness





Legal powers

- the notification of suspected disease;
- the access to holdings keeping animals;
- the application of stamping-out policy;
- the application of animal welfare requirements;
- the payment of compensation;
- the control of movements.

Financial provisions

A country shall ensure that it has the budgetary powers to cover the costs of all aspects of an epidemic:

- personnel over and above normal running costs;
- slaughter and destruction of carcasses;
- compensation payments to owners of animals;
- sanitation;
- cost sharing.

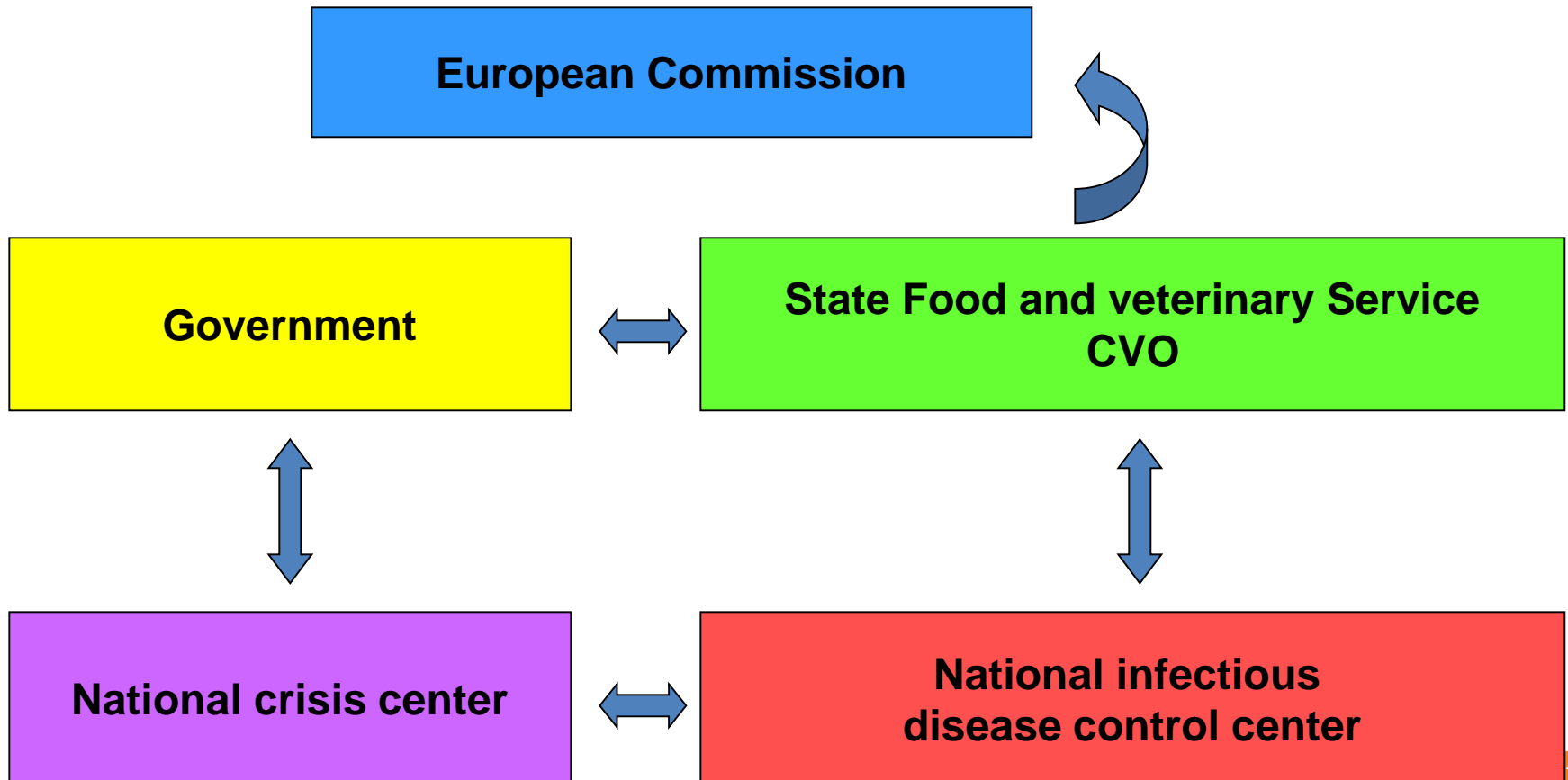


The chain of command

- A chain of command shall be established guaranteeing a rapid and effective decision-making for dealing with disease outbreaks;
- Different arrangements in the countries reflecting size, administrative history, power distributions etc.;
- A National Disease Control Centre (NDCC);
- A Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC).



CHAIN OF COMMAND (Example) Central level



Expert groups

- maintain the expertise needed to assist the competent authority in ensuring disease preparedness;
- shall assist the competent authority at least in:
 - (a) the epidemiological enquiry;
 - (b) sampling, testing and interpretation of results of laboratory tests;
 - (c) establishment of disease control measures.





Expert group assistance in a case of ASF in wild boars



- studying the epidemiological situation and defining an infected area,
- establishing appropriate measures to be applied in the infected area; these measures may include suspension of hunting and a ban in feeding wild animals,
- drawing up the eradication plan to be submitted to the Commission,
- carrying out checks to verify the effectiveness of the measures adopted to eradicate African swine fever from the infected area.



Resources - personnel

- lists of staff available for a disease emergency;
- presence of framework contracts to facilitate the recruitment and remuneration of extra personnel;
- for personnel not under the direct control of the Chief veterinary Officer (CVO) there should be a agreement between the CVO and the employer of such personnel;
- Agreements / involvement of different governmental / non-governmental institutions...
- Police and other civil organizations should be invoked in the event of an emergency.

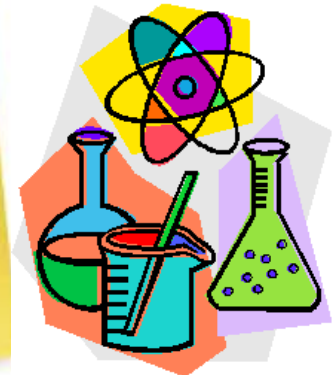


Resources – Equipment

- Communication and IT systems;
- Database (farms and animals);
- Traceability systems;
- Software for handling epidemiological data;

And...

- Clothing / boots;
- sample material;
- Disinfection;
- Elimination;
- Cars;
-



Operational manual

- **One of the part of animal contagious diseases contingency plan;**
- Describes specific actions (step-by-step procedures) or provides detailed instructions for carrying out specific disease control activities (e. g. killing/culling, destruction of the animals, decontamination, cleaning and disinfection and etc.);
- Separate for every action and procedures or a combination of different actions relating to outbreak eradication;
- It is not a replacement for the legislation, but help of actors involved;
- Is a tool kit for replicating your knowledge of your tasks and what you do during an emergency...

Different Operational Manuals

- Suspicion;
- Outbreak;
- Diagnostic/ laboratory;
- Policy manual.



OPERATION
MANUAL

An up-to-date operational manual shall be available. It shall describe in detail and in a comprehensive and practical way all the actions, procedures, instructions and control measures to be employed in handling disease outbreaks

Operational manual – an example

Operational manual for stamping out:

- The strategy of eliminating infection from premises through the destruction of animals and in a manner that permits appropriate disposal of carcasses and decontamination of the site.





Diagnostic Laboratories

National Reference Laboratory

- Primary outbreak
- Secondary outbreaks
- Post-epidemic situation
- Capability
- Capacity



Environmental protection



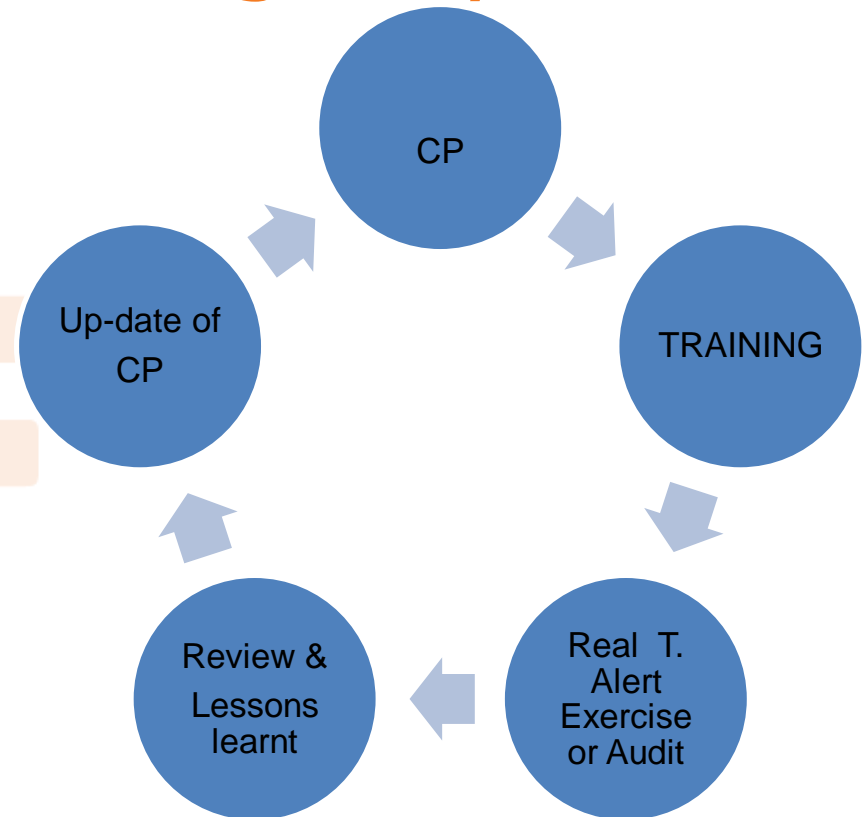
Plan without prejudice to
veterinary measures with:

- Minimum risk to soil, surface and groundwater, air, plants and animals;
- Minimum adverse effect to the countryside.

Verification of Contingency Plan

Potential approach:

- Training
- Real Time - Alert Exercise or Audit
- Review & Lessons learnt
- Up-date of plan



Training activities

Animal health staff should be trained in:

- General steps to be taken in emergencies
- Diagnosis, including collection and transport of specimen
- Epizootical investigation
- Biosecurity actions
- Disinfection and disposal procedures
- Traceability and documentation
- Information exchange and public awareness procedure



Training levels:

1. Specialized training for expert teams;
2. General trainings for supporting personnel;
3. Public awareness via media.





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Epi-situation

- What is the risk of disease outbreak occurrence in the country?
- What are the specific procedures to be tested to increase the preparedness?

Contingency plans

- Were there recent changes in the CP and were they tested?
- What are the fields for improvement in the CP?
- Are there needs for training of the staff?

Standard Operational Procedures

- Were there changes in the procedures?
- What were the main gaps in the practical execution of the procedures when tested in real situation or by exercise?
- Is training required?

Changes in Command

- Were there recent changes in the chain of command?
- Were there recent changes in the responsibilities in the chain of command and in the staff?
- What were the main gaps identified in previous experiences?

Resources

- Is there a budget line allocated for SEs?
- What HR are to be involved in the preparation and execution of the exercise and as participants?
- What would be the timeframe for the preparation and for the the execution of the exercise?

Post-outbreak experiences

- What were the main gaps identified in the outbreak management during the past outbreaks?
- Were they addressed and tested further?

Previous SE outcomes

- What were the lessons learnt?
- Were they reflected?
- Were the changes tested?

Audits

- What non-compliances were found?
- Were these non-compliances addressed?

Simulation exercise



TRAINING

- Training of staff at all levels in the veterinary administration;
- Training of stakeholders;
- Set goals for training;
- Allocate time for training;
- Define the type of exercise needed;
- Allocate budget for materials, meals and social events.



Training

- Planned reading
- Classroom or instructor led training
- Online or E-learning
- Demonstration and hands-on
- Small group discussions
- Case studies
- Role - playing



Types of simulation exercises

- Orientation exercise;
- Drill;
- Desktop (Tabletop) exercise;
- Basement simulation exercise;
- Functional (Operational) exercise;
- Full-scale (Real-time alert) exercise;
- Multi-country simulation exercise.



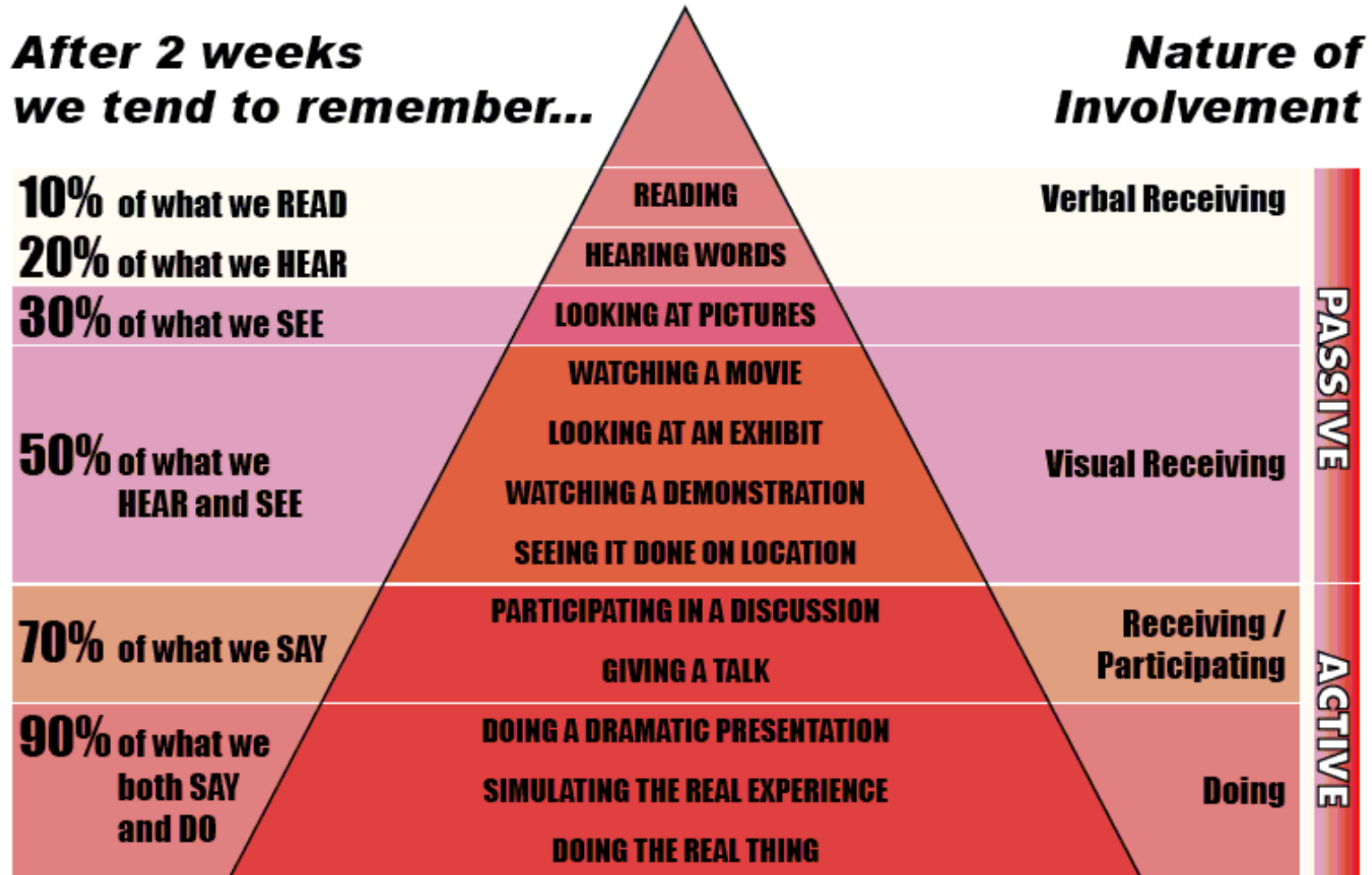
Full-scale (Real-time alert) exercise



- A fully-operational exercise;
- close to reality actions undertaken by the structures involved;
- assessing complete picture of the measures undertaken as it would be in a real outbreak situation;
- requires the mobilization and actual movement of emergency personnel, equipment and resources;
- conducted in a stressful situation;
- evaluates most functions of the contingency plan.



Cone of Learning (Edgar Dale)



Auditing of ASF contingency plan / external help

Internal or external Audit: un unbiased examination and evaluation of the ASF contingency plan.

- **Community control**

- Experts from the Commission will make on the spot checks during the eradication campaign;
- Member State must give experts all assistance;
- Report of experts can have consequences for EU.



Conclusion



- The African swine fever (ASF) contingency plan shall define actions to be considered or be taken in the event of an emergency;
- When prepared, contingency plan should not be treated as a static document;
- It should be regularly reviewed and updated;
- Staff should be trained in their roles, duties and responsibilities in an ASF emergency;
- Real time alert exercises and audits are important tools in verification of the effectiveness of ASF contingency plans.

Thanks for your kind attention!



Any questions?



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