Background Information

Starting Date: 1st Mar, 2009   End Date: 28th Feb, 2013
Total Cost: EUR 4,430,395.8   EU Contribution: EUR 2,999,983
Coordinator: Centrum Voor Onderzoek in Diergeneeskunde en agrochemie (Belgium)

Participants: Danmarks Tekniske Universitet (Denmark); Agence Nationale de Securite Sanitaire de L’Alimentation, de l’Environnement et du Travail (France); Mezogazdasagi Szakigazgatasi Hivatal Kozpont (Hungary); Stichting Dienst Landbouwkundig Onderzoek (Netherlands); Zoetis Manufacturing & Research Spain SL (Spain); Friedrich Loeffler Institut – Bundesforschungsinstitut fuer Tiergesundheit (Germany); Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale Dell’Umbria e Delle Marche (Italy); Eidgenoessisches Departement fuer Wirtschaft, Bildung und Forschung (Switzerland); Office Nationale de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (France); Sichuan University (China); Statens Veterinaermedicinska Anstalt (Sweden); Stiftung Tierarztliche Hochschule Hannover (Germany); Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain); Helmholtz-Zentrum fuer Umweltforschung GmbH-UFZ (Germany); Spectos GmbH (Germany); Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale Dell’Abruzzo e del Molise “G. Caporale” di Teramo (Italy); Eidgenoessisches Departement des Innern (Switzerland)

Objectives & Achievements

CSFV_GODIVA (Improve tools and strategies for the prevention and control of classical swine fever) is a project focusing on classical swine fever. The disease is endemic in much of Asia and parts of Europe. The current available vaccine show limitations: they are not suitable for oral application and the differentiation between vaccinated and infected animals is impossible. This complicates the disease surveillance and international trade. CSFV_GODIVA undertook to find solutions to these problems. The project developed a new marker vaccine that allows this differentiation. The attenuated live marker vaccine is now in the process of registering. The project team also created a rapid response vaccine candidate. This new emergency response vaccine will prevent slaughtering of all pigs. It will also reduce treatment costs.

CSFV_GODIVA worked on the monitoring and control of the disease and developed new tools to do so. The team conducted research on genetic and immunology tests. They created a cheap and portable colorimetric test that is more effective for field testing. They also set up more effective vaccine delivery system.
Chengdu University, the Chinese partner provided information in pig production and feral pig distribution in China. This was illustrated during field visits. They facilitated meetings with the veterinary authorities of Sichuan province and vaccine producers. During the project meetings information was exchange about CSF epidemiology, diagnosis and vaccine development.

The project provides better tools to handle swine fever, one of the most damaging diseases of domestic pigs worldwide with dramatic consequences for the farmers and for international trade. As these viruses do not stop at the borders, international collaboration is necessary to handle the issue. The projects’ outcomes improve prevention, detection and control of the two diseases.

Profile of the Testimonial Speaker

Dr. Rong Gao obtained his doctorate degree in Veterinary College of Northeast Agricultural University in 1994 and joined Sichuan University in 1996. He went to Denmark Technical University (DTU) as a visiting scholar for one year, and made friends with the scientists of Danish National Veterinary Institute in DTU who later invited him to join the European FP7 Research Project. He is now a professor of Life Sciences College and deputy director of Key lab of Bio-resource and Eco-environment of Ministry of Education in Sichuan University. His research interest is animal immunology, genetics and biotechnology. He participated in CSFV-GODIVA, a European FP7 Research Project, in 2009 and took part in the epidemiology and vaccine immunological responses to CSFV vaccination. Through the fruitful cooperation with European partners during the joint research, he established stable academic exchange relations with 16 European institutions, and benefited much from his European partners from joint experiments and mutual visits thereafter. His lab is now still keeping close collaboration with his 16 European partners, which promote his research career and result in more opportunities for cultivating open-minded graduate students with global view. His pleasant cooperative experience positively advances the progress of animal diseases control and development of molecular immune regulators in the future.

Quote

“It’s amazingly wonderful for me to make many nice friends in Europe in addition to contribute new knowledge which can benefit my country and people, the international joint research can turn to be the bridge leading to friendship and happiness for participants.”

— Dr. Rong GAO