Report

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)-sponsored on

"Biological Sample Collection and Testing for ASF Virus"

Date: 16-18 June, 2026

Venue: ICAR-NRC on Pig, Rani, Guwahati, Assam

Organized by

ICAR-National Research Centre on Pig, Rani, Guwahati, Assam

Course Director:	Dr. Vivek Kumar Gupta	Director, ICAR-NRC on Pig
Coordinators:	Dr. Vishal Rai	Scientist, ICAR-NRC on Pig
	Dr. Seema Rani Pegu	Sr. Scientist, ICAR-NRC on Pig
	Dr. Swaraj Rajkhowa	Pr. Scientist, ICAR-NRC on Pig

A three-day training programme on "Biological Sample Collection and Testing for African Swine Fever (ASF) Virus" was successfully conducted at ICAR-NRC on Pig, Rani, Guwahati, Assam, from 16–18 June 2026, sponsored by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). The programme aimed to strengthen the technical capacities of veterinary professionals involved in ASF surveillance, diagnosis, and disease control.

The training was attended by 20 veterinary professionals comprising 11 female and 9 male participants from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland. The programme combined lectures with extensive hands-on practical sessions to provide participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills related to ASF diagnosis and surveillance.

The first day focused on the current status of ASF, biosafety and biosecurity measures, personal protective practices, animal restraining techniques, biological sample collection, ante-mortem examination of pigs, and rapid field-level diagnosis of ASF. Participants received practical exposure to ante-mortem and post-mortem sample collection during suspected ASF outbreaks, including the selection of appropriate specimens for laboratory confirmation. Hands-on training was also provided on proper packaging, preservation, and dispatch of samples to diagnostic laboratories while maintaining biosafety and sample integrity.

On the second day, participants were given exposure to BSL-2+ laboratory facilities and sample handling workflows. Practical sessions covered nucleic acid extraction from ASF-suspected samples and molecular diagnostic techniques including conventional PCR and real-time PCR for ASF detection.

The final day focused on advanced diagnostic approaches including ELISA-based techniques for ASF surveillance and diagnosis, collection and testing of soft ticks (*Ornithodoros* spp.) for ASF virus detection, and isothermal amplification techniques for rapid ASF diagnosis. Participants also underwent a post-training evaluation to assess knowledge gained during the programme.

The valedictory session was presided over by Dr. Vivek Kumar Gupta, Director, ICAR-NRC on Pig. In his address, he emphasized the importance of strengthening surveillance systems, adopting appropriate biosafety and biosecurity measures, and enhancing diagnostic capacities for effective prevention and control of African Swine Fever. Certificates were awarded to all participants who successfully completed the training programme. The valedictory ceremony was attended by scientists, technical staffs, and other staffs of the institute.

Glimpses of the programme


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