

Where is the vaccine against ASF and what else can we do?

African swine fever is one of the major threats for the swine industry worldwide, for which there is no vaccine available.

Little is known about the mechanisms involved in protection and even less about the viral antigens that could induce such protection, an uneasy task taking into account that ASFV encodes more than 150 proteins. In spite of this reality, great advances have been achieved in the last years; on one hand, several live attenuated vaccine prototypes have been successfully tested in experimental conditions and on the other hand, new expectations have been opened regarding the potential use of safe and efficient subunit vaccines in the near future.

In this paper we will try to summarize the main results obtained in the field of ASF-vaccinology, partially focusing our attention on the work performed in our laboratory, always in collaboration with both public and private partners.

The potential commercialization of a safe and efficient vaccine against ASF would be essential not only to control the current outbreaks threatening the European Union from the East but should also contribute to reduce the epidemiological pressure of ASFV in many regions of sub-Saharan Africa, where the virus remain endemic for ages provoking devastating consequences.

Commercialization of ASF vaccines in Africa could not only contribute to alleviate the poverty of the area but also to reduce the risk of future exportations of ASFV.