

# Applying theory in practice: Farm Biosecurity



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded in 1924



Funded by  
the European Union

**Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in Europe**  
under the GF-TADs umbrella

**Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in Europe**  
**(SGE ASF-24)**

**Biosecurity, particularly in backyard farms in the control of African Swine Fever**

**Draft AGENDA**

**3-4 April 2025**

**Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Venue: Meeting room at the Hotel [Courtyard by Marriot](#)**

K. Depner

FRIEDRICH-LOEFFLER-INSTITUT

**FLI**

Bundesforschungsinstitut für Tiergesundheit  
Federal Research Institute for Animal Health

Starting point

# Thinking biosecurity

## The disease

- Transmission ways
- Contagiousness
- Lethality
- etc.

## The farm

- Buildings
- Fences

## The management

- Employees
- Workflow



# Is Biosecurity important?

I

*(Legislative acts)*

## REGULATIONS

**REGULATION (EU) 2016/429 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL  
of 9 March 2016**

**on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal  
health ('Animal Health Law')**

*(Text with EEA relevance)*

The word  
“VETERINARIAN” is  
mentioned 49 times



The word  
“BIOSECURITY” is  
mentioned 70 times

Let's take that as a proxy for “importance in disease prevention and control”

# Biosecurity: EU Animal Health Law

‘Biosecurity’ means the sum of management and physical measures designed to reduce the risk of the introduction, development and spread of diseases to, from and within:

- an animal population,
- an establishment,
- zone,
- compartment,
- means of transport,
- any other facilities, premises or location.

# Biosecurity

## Hardware



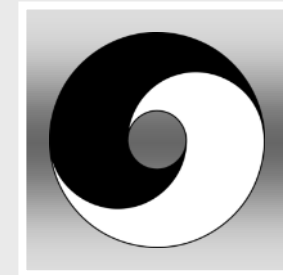
Money



*J. Westergaard*

## Software

*(Mindset/Philosophy/Management)*



Education







Photo: V. Guberti

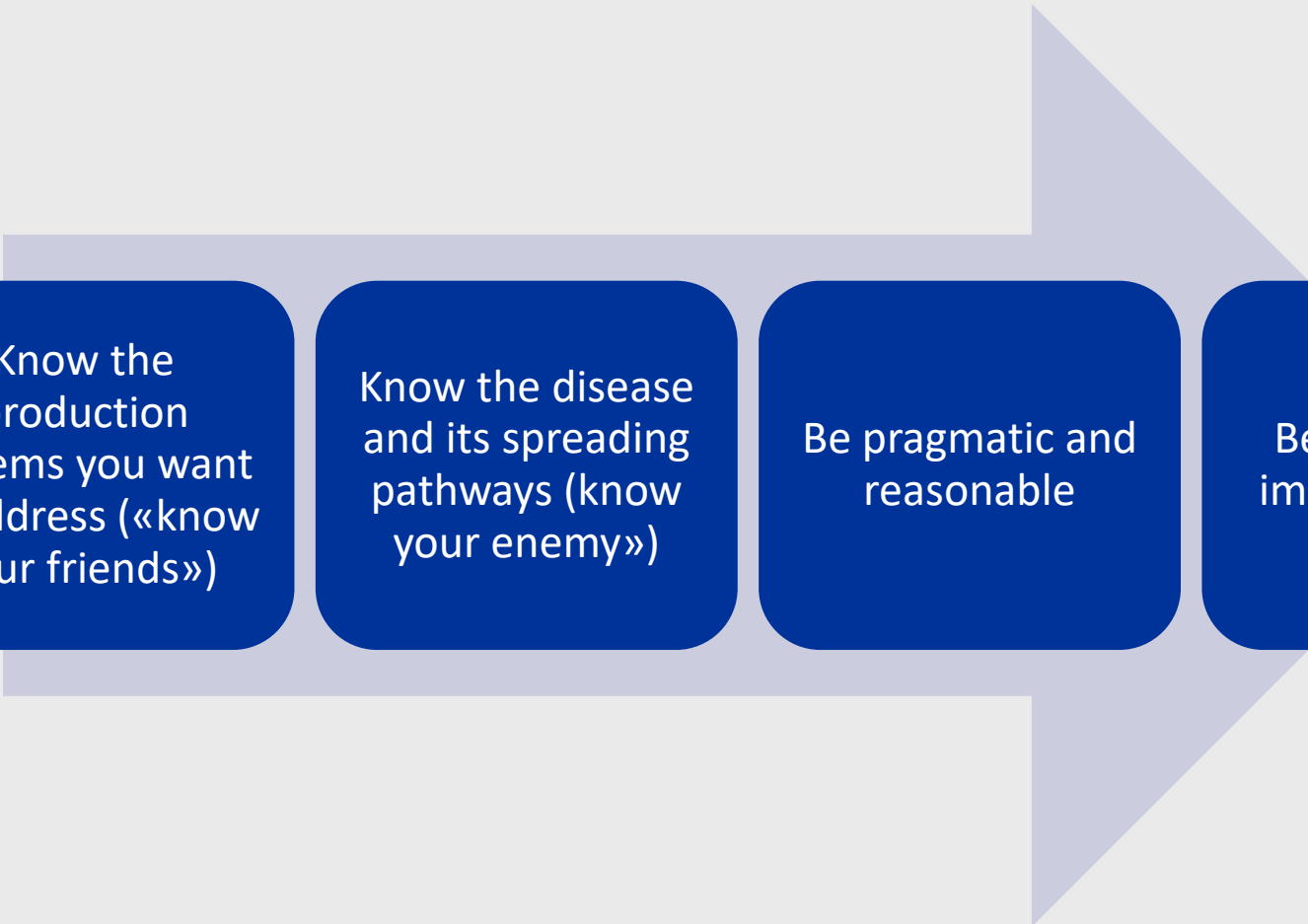
**Biosecurity during hunting!!!**







# How to implement specific biosecurity plans?



Know the  
production  
systems you want  
to address («know  
your friends»)

Know the disease  
and its spreading  
pathways (know  
your enemy»)

Be pragmatic and  
reasonable

Be strict in the  
implementation

# Production systems

There are a number of different animal production systems to take into account when biosecurity measures are reviewed.

- **Large size commercial farms** where production is professionalized
- **Family farms – backyard farms or hobby farms** - having one or a few pigs and perhaps some other animals
- **Organic farms** with less intensive production systems and partly based on free range of animals

## Farmed pigs

- no swill feeding
- no outdoor keeping
- good veterinary service
- registered holdings
- movement control
- good bio-security
- controlled trade
- professional management



## Back yard pigs

- swill feeding
- outdoor keeping
- poor veterinary service
- inadequate registration
- home slaughtering
- inadequate movement control
- bad bio-security
- uncontrolled markets
- tradition, etc.

# Backyard farming: A biosecurity challenge

Backyard pig farming  
apart from tradition

plays an integral role  
in recycling of food,

plays an important  
role for meat supply  
in rural areas

is a valuable cash  
income.

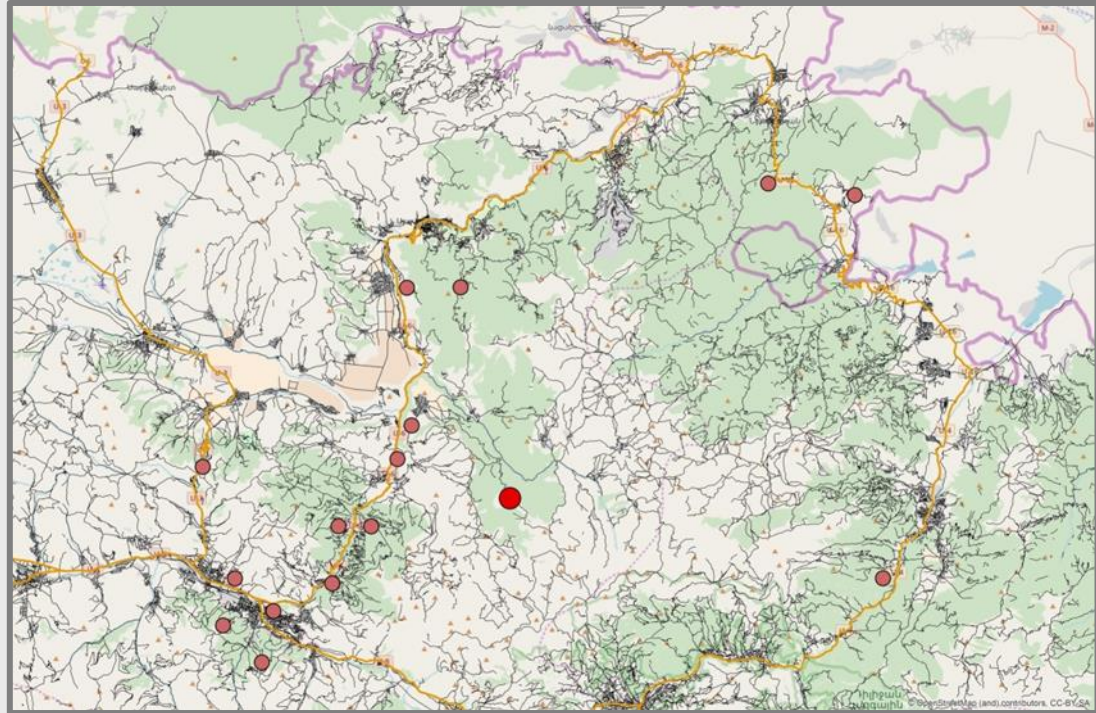


# Three basic biosecurity rules

No swill feeding

No contact with pigs from other farms

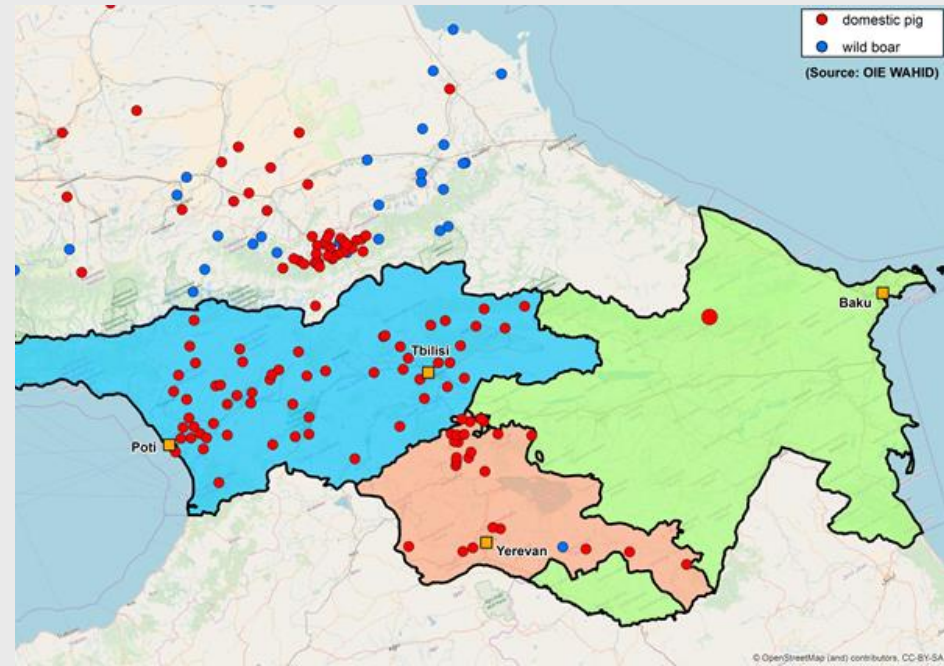
Changing clothing and boots when entering the stable





# TRADITION

## Home slaughtering at Christmas





This can be sufficient!



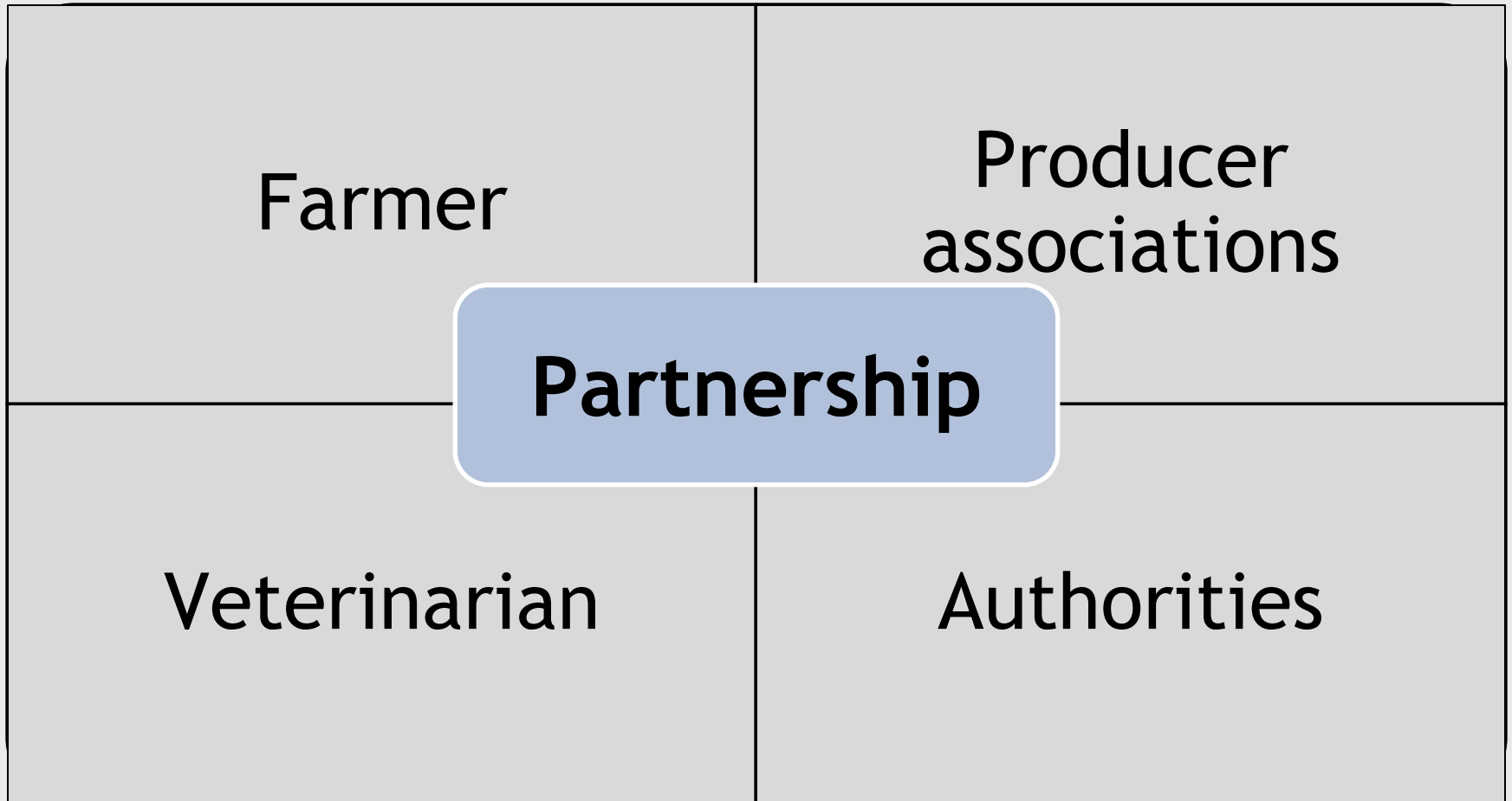
# Improving Biosecurity

What can we expect?

Are we realistic?



## How do we get there





# Put the producer in the center



Tell me,  
I will forget!



Show me,  
I may remember!



Involve me,  
I will understand!

*Chinese proverb*

# More than anything

Biosecurity is a “mindset” or “philosophy” that must be developed by producers

It requires the adoption of a **set of attitudes** and behaviors by people to reduce risk in all activities

There is no “**one fits all**” solution – biosecurity should be adapted to present risks

# Biosecurity is Risk Management

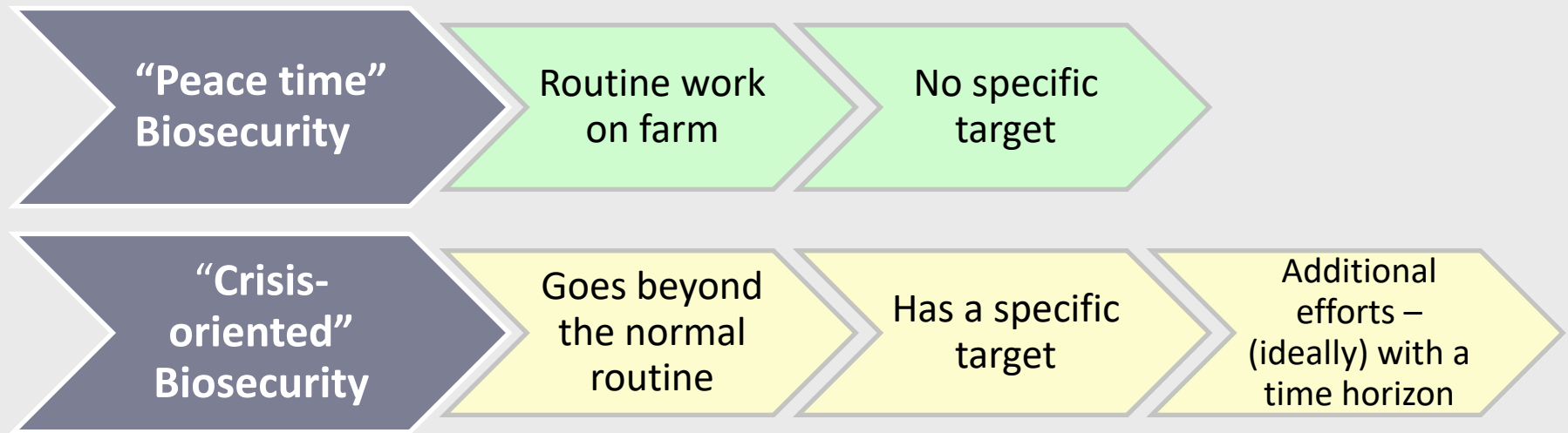
Risk is never = 0

Perception of risk is “personalized”

- Do we always put the seatbelt on?
- Do we always respect the speed limit?
- Do we never touch the mobile while driving?
- Do we immediately change oil when reaching certain km?

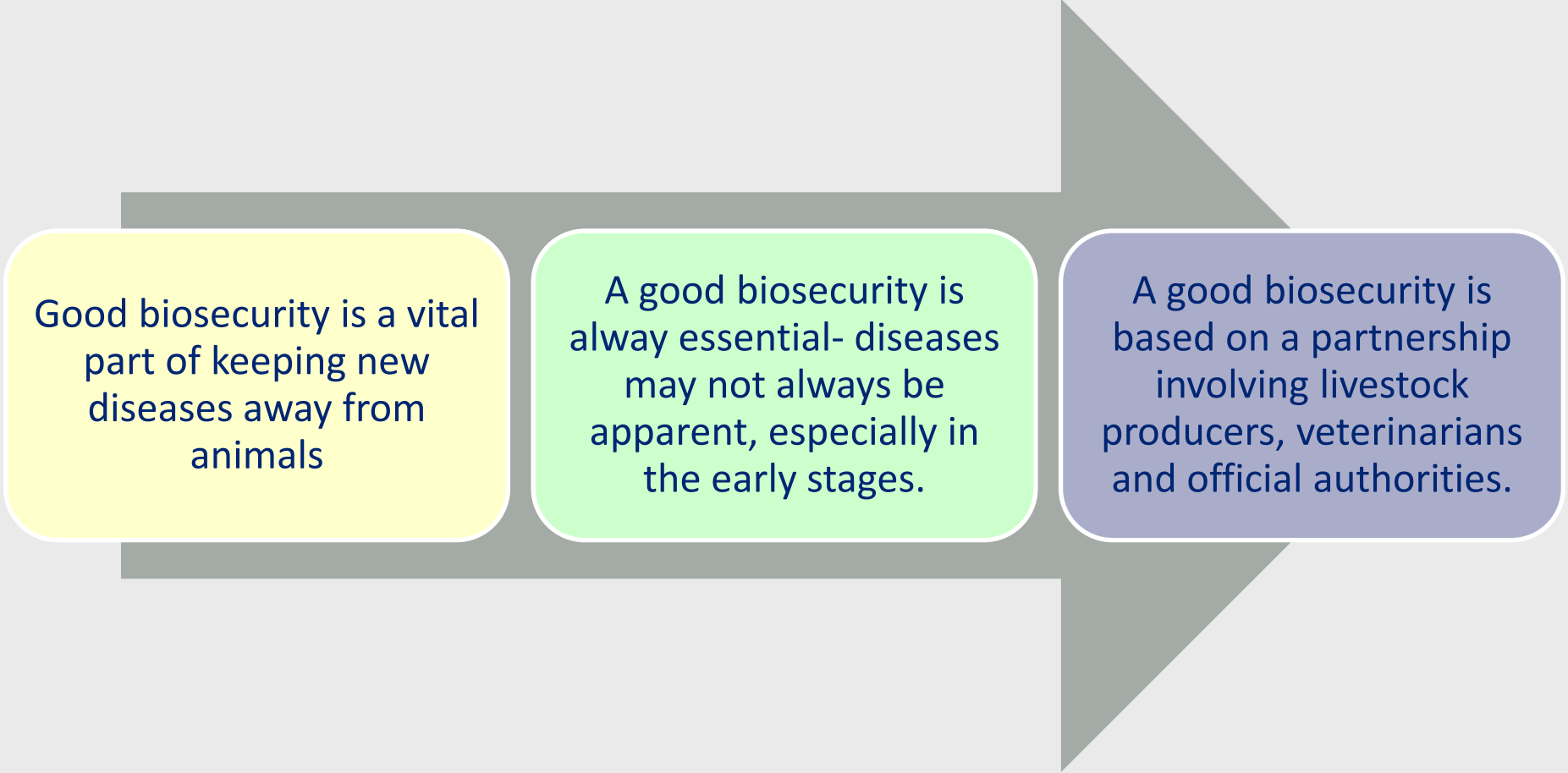


# Biosecurity in a context



Both follow the same principles but have different main concerns and dimensions

# Biosecurity - Conclusions



Good biosecurity is a vital part of keeping new diseases away from animals

A good biosecurity is always essential- diseases may not always be apparent, especially in the early stages.

A good biosecurity is based on a partnership involving livestock producers, veterinarians and official authorities.

## **Biosecurity is a mindset**