

K-11053/62/2018-LH
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 10th June, 2019

Sub: Advisories to States on outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF)

With reference to the outbreaks of African Swine fever (ASF) affecting both domestic and wild pigs in Asia especially in countries like China (August 2018), Mongolia (January 2019), Vietnam (February 2019), Cambodia (March 2019) and Hong Kong (May 2019), kindly note that it is a matter of concern for India as there is movement of both live pigs and pork products into India from its neighboring countries. In fact, the disease has moved from Africa into Europe before entering Asia.

2. ASF is highly contagious disease of pigs – both domestic and wild. The mortality range may be as high as 100%. While there is no report of its being zoonotic, yet in the absence of an effective vaccine against the African swine fever virus, prevention in countries free of the disease depends on stringent import policies, ensuring that neither infected live pigs nor pork products are introduced into areas free of ASF. This includes ensuring proper disposal of food from waste aircraft, ships or vehicles coming from infected countries and enhancing biosecurity measures; particularly in backyard or non-commercial pig farms.

3. As the disease is already prevalent in China and India has long borders with China, Myanmar and Nepal, therefore, the border Indian states need to remain alert on the movement of live pigs and pork products in to their territory. In this regard, the people in the border areas, especially in the North-east, require to be adequately sensitized.

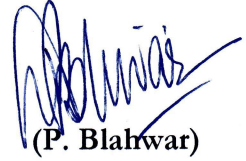
4. Further, in order to prevent introduction of ASF into the country, the States are requested to ensure compliance with the following

- Intensive physical surveillance and application of appropriate bio-security measures to prevent ingress of the African Swine Fever virus into the country
- Strengthen border vigilance activities such as strict enforcement of bio-security and quarantine at all entry points into the country. Inspection and quarantine of all live pigs and pork products entering the country must be ensured. However, regulation of the movement of live pigs and pork products must be according to the extant OIE Terrestrial Code
- Enhance awareness among all pig farmers and other stakeholders (e.g., anyone involved in pig sector, traders, distributors, hunters, butchers etc.) and private veterinarians of the impact of ASF. Also, enhance on-farm biosecurity and understand clinical presentation

of the disease. Due to the clinical similarity with other swine diseases, it is imperative that passive clinical surveillance always needs laboratory confirmation for the disease.

- Increase passive surveillance and immediate reporting to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) of suspected cases, especially high mortality events that may occur
- Facilitate submission of samples from suspected cases to a reference laboratory (i.e. NIHSAD, Bhopal) for an appropriate and prompt diagnostic confirmation
- Swill feeding practices, both from the domestic kitchens and from restaurant kitchen, are considered to be one of the major risks for the introduction and spread of the virus. Hence, these should be discouraged
- Training of the veterinary staff, clinical veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals, working in the pig sector on ASF disease detection, surveillance and control measures as well as in extension

5. Finally, kindly note that management of any ASF outbreak in domestic pigs is based on strict bio-security and quarantine, animal movement control, culling and compensation.



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