OIRSA actions to prevent the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Dominican Republic (DR)

Abelardo De Gracia

(adegracia@oirsa.org)

Dirección Regional de Salud Animal





Prevention in the country (2018-2022)





What have we done?

- October 2018: development and dissemination of general recommendations to prevent entry of the illness.
- March 2019: Virtual Regional Seminar on African Swine Fever, (Veterinary Medicine Faculty of the San Carlos de Guatemala-Colegio University)
- From March toJuly 2019: Procurement of ASF diagnostic kits.







What have we done?

- April 2019: Development and dissemination of
 - Alerts on the danger of importing animals and products from ASF affected countries.
 - Recommendations to prevent the introduction of the virus in the OIRSA region, with more specific recommendations







What have we done?

- April to August 2019: Development of information materials in English and Spanish made available to countries:
 - Video (1 in Spanish and 1 in English)
 - Flyers (3 in Spanish and 3 in English)
 - Infographic
 - Brochure















What have we done?

- June and August 2019: Presentations on African Swine Fever to experts and producers from:
 - Nicaragua (11 June)
 - Panama (8 and 9 July)
 - Honduras (31 July 2 August)
 - Guatemala (23 September)
 - Costa Rica (25 September)
- July 2019: Visit to the El Salvador Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock for the launch of the ASF prevention plan.



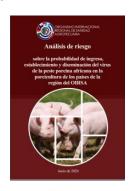






What have we done?

- July 2019 to June 2020: Development and dissemination of ASF regional risk analysis.
- October 2019: ASF regional simulation in Guatemala.
- February 2022 to now: Revision of the ASF risk analysis.









What have we done?

- Mobile application "OIRSA library" (Android) with the following material:
 - Regional manual of good practices for the management of health emergencies (attachments for diseases including ASF, materials and devices, disaster management).
 - Sanitising manual for animal health.
 - Videos:
 - How to put on and take off biosecurity apparel
 - Taking and sending samples
 - General information on ASF
 - Management of ASF waste
 - Biosecurity safe disposal of ASF carcasses
 - Necropsy in bovines, pigs and sheep
 - Discussions:
 - Biosafe disposal of pig carcasses affected by ASF
 - Cleaning and sanitisation procedures for facilities and vehicles with presence of ASF









OIRSA actions in the face of an ASF outbreak in the Dominican Republic 2021-2022





Epidemiological situation

Estimated population

- Commercial farms: 334 farms with around 62,000 breeding sows
- Backyards: Estimated between 40,000-60,000 breeding sows
- Total: between 1.8 to 2 million pigs (estimate from the July 2021 census).

Current situation

From 1 to 7 May 2022

- # of accumulated outbreaks: 1,276 in 30of the 31 provinces.
- # of pig outbreaks: 1,009.
- # of outbreaks in the erradication process: 267.
- 3,248 producers sampled.



Fuente: Dep. de Epidemiología DIGEGA

Figura 5. Mapas de focos acumulados de PPA por provincia a la semana epidemiológica 18.

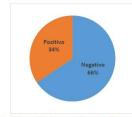


Figura 7. Gráfico del porcentaje de casos positivos y negativos.

What are we doing?

- Emergency focus: containing the outbreak.
- Technical assistance at a central level and in the field from 48 hours following declaration of ASF outbreak in DR.
- Assigning emergency funds for containement and control of the outbreak in DR
 (U\$\$248,345.48/phase1), as well as one-off payments to prevent ASF entry into countries free of the disease and continued support for DR (U\$\$551,000.00for DR and U\$\$493,226.92for unaffected countries/phase 2).
- Formation of the Committee for the Erradication of ASE
- Implementation of ASF diagnostic techniques in LAVECEN (RT-PCR, ELISA Ac).











What are we doing?

- Development and implementation of the epidemiological monitoring platform from the Ministry of Agriculture (epidemiology, laboratory, preservation brigade, dumping grounds, etc.)
- Revision, development and dissemination of information materials (posters, flyers, videos).
- Arrangements for joint coordination with other liaison agencies (OIE, FAO, IICA, USDA/APHIS).
- Virtual and in person training sessions exclusively for veterinary services in DR.
- Regional information sessions on the sanitary situation in DR and updating the different components of sanitary crisis response.













What are we doing?

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APRIS AND THE

- · USDA-APHIS Project for the control and eradication of ASF in DR (3 action plans).
- Proposal to strengthen the national tracability program and adapt internal movement controls.







Necessary Measures

Quarantine Services

- Strengthen the primary line of defence in ports, airports and land borders through intrusive and non-intrusive inspections.
 - Canine pairing
 - Scanners (image interpretation)
 - International waste treatments.

<u>Production Sector</u>

- Strengthen biosecurity on farms
- Establish a swine traceability system and update national census.
- Implement a control for internal movement of pork products and sub products at the national level.
- Strengthen the public-private alliance
- Establishment of a suitable education and communication campaign for the general public and media
- Revision and adaptation of local regulations.

Veterinary Services

- Update of national emergency plans and early warning.
- Formulation and training of response teams.
- Strenghtening of ASF diagnostic laboratories.
- Establishing protocols for:
- VE
- Humane slaughter
- Taking and sending samples
- Disposal of carcasses
- Cleaning and sanitisation.





