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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock
Tashichhodzong, Thimphu: Bhutan



འཕྲོ་ལྷན།
SECRETARY

MoAL/SEC-7/2024-2025/01

July 1, 2024

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock hereby notifies the general public that there are confirmed outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) at Zawakha, Athang Gewog under Wangdue Dzongkhag, and at Kabisa Gewog under Punakha Dzongkhag. Following the report of morbidities and mortalities in these farms, the outbreak was confirmed through rt-PCR test conducted on June 29, 2024, at National Centre for Animal Health, Serbithang.

ASF is a highly lethal disease that affects pigs, often leading to significant disruptions in the livelihoods of pig farmers. The ASF outbreaks witnessed in Bhutan are typically a result of the movement of infected pigs and contaminated pig products, and practice of swill feeding. Therefore, we urge the general public and hoteliers:

- Refrain from the illegal importation of pigs and pig products.
- Report any suspected illegal imports immediately through the toll-free number 1555 (BFDA).

Despite repeated advocacy and awareness to pig farmers to improve pig farm biosecurity, including better farm management and pig husbandry practices, we have observed that the majority of farms where outbreaks occurred have poor farm biosecurity and inadequate farming practices. It is imperative for pig farmers in the country to safeguard their pig farms and demonstrate due diligence in enhancing the biosecurity of their farms by implementing the following measures:

- Do not feed kitchen wastes/wastes from hotels and restaurants to the pigs;
- Ensure other kitchen wastes that are fed to the pigs are properly cooked before feeding;
- Prevent domestic pigs from coming into contact with wild pigs;
- Prevent visitors from entering the farm;
- Immediately report any suspicious pig deaths, both domestic and wild, to the nearest livestock extension center or through toll-free number 1244 (DoL).

Additionally, the Ministry also urges the meat vans plying through the Tsirang-Wangdue-Gasa highways to strictly avoid making any stops at these outbreak areas to prevent contamination and the spread of the virus.

Any person found not adhering to this notification shall be firmly dealt in accordance with the relevant laws of the country.

Issued for information and strict compliance.

Chair
National Incident Command Committee