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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock

Tashichhodzong, Thimphu: Bhutan



འཕེལ་བྱེད་པུན་པོ།

SECRETARY

MoAL/SEC-7/2024-2025/09

July 18, 2024

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock hereby inform the general public of a confirmed outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Rizhi village, Lamgong Gewog, Paro Dzongkhag. The ASF outbreak, affecting a household with two pigs, was confirmed through rt-PCR test on July 17, 2024.

ASF is a highly lethal disease that affects pigs, often causing severe disruptions in the livelihoods of pig farmers. **Despite repeated advisories to improve pig farm biosecurity, including enhanced farm management and pig husbandry practices, the Department has observed that most farms experiencing outbreaks have poor farm biosecurity, inadequate farming practices and practice of feeding uncooked kitchen wastes and food wastes from hotels/restaurants to the pigs.**

Given the increasing incidence of ASF outbreaks in the country, it is crucial for pig farmers to safeguard their farms and improve biosecurity by implementing the following measures:

- Do not feed food wastes from hotels and restaurants to the pigs;
- Do not feed kitchen wastes that contains pork/meat leftovers;
- Ensure that any kitchen wastes fed to the pigs are boiled and cooked for at least 30 minutes;
- Prevent domestic pigs from coming into contact with wild pigs;
- Restrict visitors access to the farm;
- Report any suspicious pig deaths, both domestic and wild, immediately to the nearest livestock extension center or through toll-free number 1244 (DoL).

Additionally, the ongoing illegal importation of pork and pork products from across the border remains a significant concern. To date, Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA) has collected Nu 8.6 million in fines related to illegal import. The Ministry once again requests the general public and hoteliers to refrain from the illegal importation of pork and pork products, and to report any suspected illegal imports immediately through the toll-free number 1555 (BFDA).

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 to prevent ASF outbreaks and safeguard the livelihoods of our farmers.

Chair

National Incident Command Committee