

Pig Population Distribution

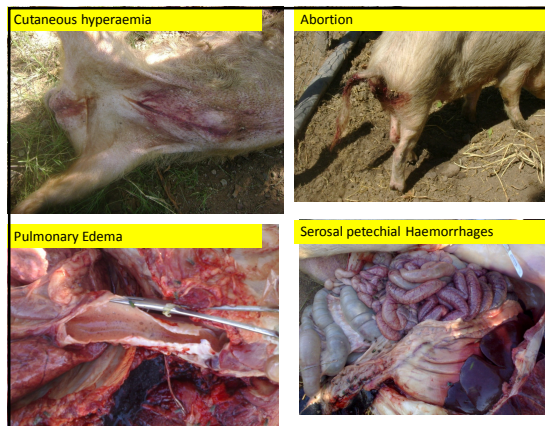
- 70% of pigs are in the northern communal areas of Namibia
- 50% of the pigs in northern communal areas are in Omusati region where the outbreak occurred

Case history

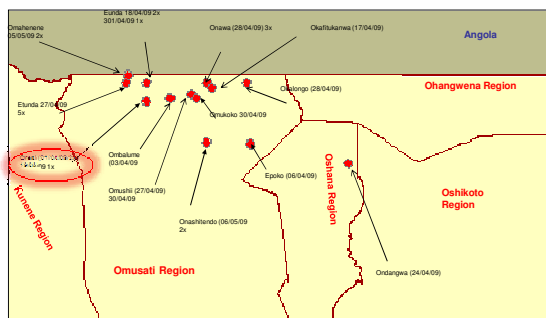
- Rumours circulating of pig mortality in February 2009 along Namibia/Angolan border
- 19 March first investigation by regional state veterinarian at Etaka village
- Poisoning suspected by farmer
- Investigation led to the suspicion of ASF

Case History

- Clinical signs: Lethargy, swaying gait, respiratory distress, epistaxis, cutaneous hyperaemia, coma and death
- Pathology: Haemorrhagic lymph nodes, pulmonary edema, petechial and ecchymotic intestinal, liver and kidney haemorrhages, ± splenomegaly
- Samples were collected and submitted to OVI leading to confirmatory diagnosis (West African strain/Portuguese strain-genotype 1).
- Unrelated to previous strains diagnosed in Namibian

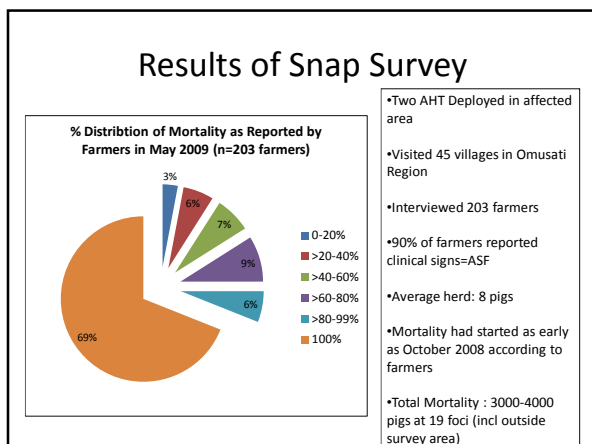


Foci of ASF



Communication

- Announcement on Radio after clinical and PM diagnosis
- Announcement resulted in 4 other communities reporting to State Vet mortality in pigs
- Investigations revealed these to be ASF as well



International Communication

- OIE, SADC-LIMS, AU-IBAR reports
- Trans-frontier meeting with Angolan counterparts (8-10 July)

Overlooked during communication:

- Involvement of school children
- Community leaders
- Police and customs officials
- Media practitioners

Challenges

- Lack of a communication strategy or plan for non-endemic animal farming diseases in communal farming settings
- Limited human skills in communication



Lessons Learnt

- There is need to systematically investigate rumours
 - snap survey only conducted after tangible evidence had been obtained
- Constant communication between farmers and veterinary services
 - involve community leadership, CAHW
- Response plans and operational procedures to be in place before outbreaks occur
- They must be tailor made for different farming systems

Lessons Learnt

- Have basic communication tools before hand e.g. Pamphlets released 5 months later
- “Species bias” may lead to delay in reporting
- Constant cross border communication with Angola may have helped to alert DVS Namibia resulting in better responsiveness
- Information must be communicated timely and effectively to avoid confusion, rumours, mis-information e.g:
 - Confusion with Swine Flu (H1N1)

Thank You