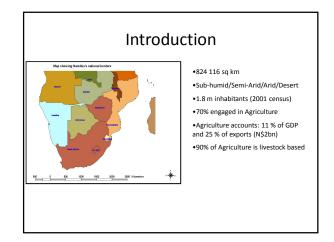
A Practical Experience, Namibia Facing ASF Outbreaks in 2009

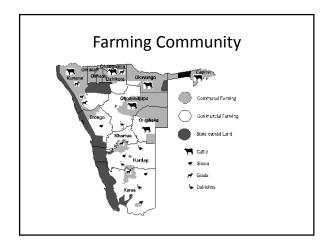
OIE Regional Seminar on Communication 22-23 September 2009

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Farming Community

- •Farming community:
 - •4200 commercial farmers on Free hold
 - Over 140 000 communal families



Pig Farming in Namibia

- Commercial
 - Conventional housing and feeding
 - Intensive high-input/high-output
 - Observance of biosecurity high
- Communal
 - Extensive-free range scavenging
 - limited supplementary feeding- Kitchen leftovers
 - Traditional structures-wooden poles and thatch
 - Little or no biosecurity observed

Population Distribution	
Eastern Caprivi	524
Oshana	6279
Omusati	17605
Ohangwena	7957
Oshikoto	1761
Rundu	1778
Opuwo	-
Otavi	606
Grootfontein	485
Okahandja	559
Outjo	304
Otjiwarongo	95
Otjinene	10
Gobabis	392
Omaruru	89
Walvisbay	837
Windhoek	1020
Mariental	10771
Keetmanshoop	900
GRAND TOTAL	51972

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, ± spenomegaly
- 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 Executional Society 22 Oneses (2804.09) 3x Outflukames (1704.09) Angola Obstacline (1804.09) Oneses (2804.09) 3x Outflukames (1704.09) Oneses (2804.09) 3x Outflukames (1704.09) Oneses (2804.09) Oneses (2804.09)

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

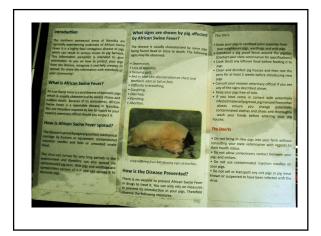
Operational Level Communication

Information Dissemination

- · Local radio programs
- Distribution of pamphlets
- Publication of DVS-Quarterly Newsletter







Operational Level Communication

Institutional communication

- Monthly national surveillance report
- · Staff training
- Stakeholder meetings
 - Relevant governmental department
 - Farmers associations
 - Abattoir Operators
 - Butchery operators

Operational Level Communication

Surveillance Activities

- Community visits
- Disease investigation
- Snap survey

Results of Snap Survey •Two AHT Deployed in affected % Distribtion of Mortality as Reported by Farmers in May 2009 (n=203 farmers) •Visited 45 villages in Omusati Region Interviewed 203 farmers ■0-20% •90% of farmers reported **■** >20-40% clinical signs=ASF **■** >40-60% Average herd: 8 pigs ■ >60-80% ■>80-99% •Mortality had started as early **100%** as October 2008 according to farmers •Total Mortality : 3000-4000 pigs at 19 foci (incl outside survey area)

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



 Lack of a communication strategy or plan for non-endemic animal 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, misinformation e.g:
 - Confusion with Swine Flu (H1N1)

Thank You