

## African Swine Fever (ASF): a newly emerged fatal disease of pigs in Assam

**ASF has NO TREATMENT, NO VACCINE, NO CURE and NOT TRANSMISSIBLE to human**

### Facts against some common myths

- ASF is completely different disease from Classical Swine Fever (CSF) and Swine Flu.
- ASF does not cause any health risk to human, pork is safe for human consumption.
- CSF vaccine neither prevents pigs from ASF nor it causes ASF.

*The disease is caused by ASF virus and it can affect both domestic and wild pigs, but do not affect any other livestock species. The virus may remain in active form upto 3 years in different contaminated materials.*

### MAIN SYMPTOMS



Red patches of the skin on the ears, abdomen, chest, tail and hind legs which may turn into bluish purple colour at later stage



Difficult breathing



Inappetance and frothy discharge from nose



Abortion in pregnant animals

**High Fever (41<sup>o</sup>-42<sup>o</sup>C).**

**Diarrhoea and vomiting with/without mucus and blood.**

**Death within 1-15 days. Some pigs may die without showing any visible symptoms.**

**Mortality rate may be as high as 100%**

## How ASF is transmitted?

Direct : Contact with infected pigs

Indirect : Contact with materials contaminated by discharges of ASF infected pigs like feed, equipments, utensils, needles-syringe, shoes, chappals, vehicles, stray animals, individuals and infected pork and pork products

Others : Through soft ticks

## What should you do if ASF is suspected/occurred in your farm?

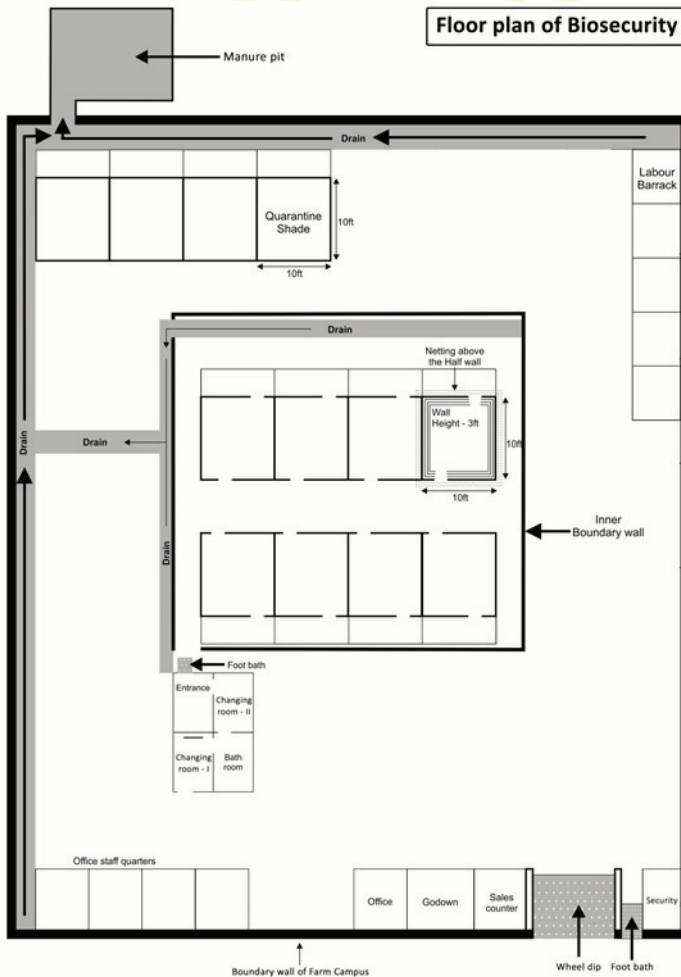
- Immediately inform the local veterinary officer for the needful.
- Isolate the pig/s showing symptoms of ASF in a separate shed taking special care.
- Use separate set of utensils, chappals, and even with separate worker for taking care of affected pigs.
- Offer feed and water to the diseased pigs only after offering to healthy pigs.
- If any animal found dead, dispose the dead animal by deep burial, preferably inside the farm premises.
- Never throw away dead pigs in rivers, streams, water bodies, open fields, jungles, etc.
- Never sale diseased pigs to others nor consume the pork at your home.
- Sweep and scrap the infected materials on the floor, wall, etc. and gather the feed waste, bedding materials, gunny bags, dirt adhering in the pig sty, etc. Burn these within the farm premises as far as possible, taking necessary precaution.
- Thoroughly clean the floor, railing, wall, drain, central passage, feeding and water trough and farm utensils using water and cleaning agents (soap/detergent).
- Disinfect the above with disinfectants such as -bleaching powder, phenol, formalin, sodium hypochlorite, lime, etc. as advised by local veterinarians.
- Disinfect the pig sty and entire farm premise using disinfectants.
- Clean and disinfect your personal clothes, gum boots, chappals, etc. and take bath with soap and water after completion of whole cleaning process.

## Bio-security is the best preventive measure

- Protect your pig farm by prohibiting entry of stray animals, birds, wild boars, pigs of the neighborhoods, etc. by erecting a fence around the farm premises. Keep the upper portion of the half wall protected using wire netting.
- Stop entry of individuals, visitors, pig traders, other pig farmer, etc. to your farm if it is not very essential. If essential, allow them to enter only after taking all precautions like washing and sanitizing their hands and feet and using separate clothing and chappals.
- Allow veterinarians to enter your farm, if required, after taking special precaution and support them to do the needful.
- Stop entry of vehicles to your farm if not very essential. If essential, allow only after disinfecting the vehicles, more particularly the wheels.
- Stop interaction of domestic pigs with wild pigs.
- Neither buy nor sell diseased pigs/pork/pork products under any circumstances during this period.
- Do not feed kitchen waste, hotel waste, slaughter waste, etc. having pork particles. If feeding of kitchen waste is essential, feed them only after boiling for 30 minutes.
- Stop rearing of pigs under free ranging/tethering system. Construct a small pig sty with concrete floor.
- Do not sale or buy pigs and pork, etc. during an outbreak. Ask your fellow farmers not to do it.
- Do not take your pigs out of the farm for breeding purpose. Either rear a breeding boar or adopt Artificial Insemination (AI).
- Thoroughly clean the sties, drains, utensils, equipment, clothings and the surroundings of your pig farm followed by disinfection with bleaching powder, phenol, formalin, sodium hypochlorite or lime.
- Dispose of the feed waste, excreta, etc. of the farm in a manure pit dug inside the farm premises.
- Arrange for a "Foot-bath" in front of each sty and a "Wheel dip" in front of the farm and keep it filled with potassium permanganate / bleaching powder solution, replace the solution daily.
- Leave the ASF affected farm vacant for at least 40 (forty) days after properly cleaning and disinfecting.
- Never buy new piglets from ASF infected farm or from the market.

Only buy from a known bio-secured farm after gathering all the relevant information.

- Initially introduce only 10% of the total strength of your farm. Keep this stock under strict observation for 6 (six) weeks for any re-occurrence of ASF.
- Later on, if you buy new piglets, keep them in under quarantine for 21 days for observation. Introduce to in the main farm only when no symptom of ASF and other diseases is exhibited.



**Layout of a bio-secured pig farm**