

ASF and International Trade:

Barbados' Trade Experience



Risk Assessment

- ▶ A risk assessment was performed to identify our susceptibility to infection by ASF virus or a similar Transboundary Animal Disease.

Main risk of entry are therefore:

- ▶ through informal importation of pork products and by-products including through trade and travelers – moderate risk;
- ▶ through food waste – low risk;
- ▶ through fomites – moderate risk.



Trade – Points of Entry

Trade via the importation of pork/pork products was identified as the main source of risk for Barbados. The main points of entry for ASF virus are via the importation through:

- ▶ Legal ports of entry and,
- ▶ Illegal ports of entry.
- ▶ We have four legal ports of entry:
 - ▶ Grantley Adams International Airport (GAIA)
 - ▶ Bridgetown Deep Water Harbour and the Shallow Draft
 - ▶ Port St. Charles Marina
 - ▶ Port Ferdinand Marina
- ▶ The risk assessment enabled targeted surveillance at the ports of entry to prevent the introduction of ASF virus (or a TAD).



How Trade is currently managed

A more involved assessment as to:

- ▶ The likelihood of ASFV entry into Barbados from affected countries in the region through live pig trade (formal);
- ▶ We also assessed the likelihood of the formal trade in pork products, pig genetic material importation, and animal-origin feed importation.

The informal trade in pigs and the smuggling of pigs to Barbados is practically non-existent due our geographic location (outside the island chain) and Barbados not a major actor in inter-island trade (at present).

The formal trade in live pigs, pork products and biological material from ASF affected countries is negligible due to either:

- ▶ a lack of trade agreements in these products or material;
- ▶ our requirements for, and the issuance of the relevant permits to importers, is either withheld, or placed on temporary restriction with the notification of all relevant authorities.



How trade is currently managed

- ▶ Permits for the importation of meat/dairy products:
 - ▶ **Commercial** - yearly permits and inspection of certifying documents and the interface with ASYCUDA (Automated Systems for Customs Data)
 - ▶ **Passenger**- passenger permits are important to identify and notify the customs and inspection officers of a risk - luggage inspections, self-declarations, interviews.
 - ▶ Allows us to track the location of the products once they enter Barbados.
 - ▶ The passenger permits application process also allows us to interact with the persons obtaining the permits, to notify and inform them of diseases and the risk these diseases pose to our country.



How Trade is currently managed

- ▶ With regards to international or intraregional trade, we have initiated temporary bans on pork and pork products from high-risk countries (countries with active ASF infections in backyard and/or commercial herds)
 - ▶ Notifications of these trade restrictions are communicated with the local stakeholders (other Ministries, importers etc.)
 - ▶ Notifications to the relevant authorities in the affected countries via formal diplomatic channels (primarily) where they exist.
 - ▶ Customs and border protection officials, and quarantine inspections officials have been informed about ASF virus(as a TAD) and have engaged in increased surveillance at the ports of entry.



How Trade is currently managed

- ▶ Countries with whom we have good trade relations with before an outbreak of ASF virus, we may institute a temporary ban:
 - ▶ This ban may be in the initial stages but once all cases in domestic pigs have been resolved we may enter a regionalization agreement to initiate trade in pork and pork products.
 - ▶ Full disclosure and trust in capabilities of the veterinary authorities of the exporting country is key.



How Trade is Managed

- ▶ At present therefore, we limit the importation of pork and pork products from high-risk countries and countries that are experiencing or have recently experienced outbreaks.
- ▶ We are constantly assessing our risk and therefore for commercial imports, we rely heavily on the competence and certification of our peers in exporting countries.
- ▶ With regards to personal/passenger imports, we rely on education and communication with the passengers and on the vigilance of the border inspectorate.



Communication and Public Awareness

- ▶ Further risk reduction strategies employed in Barbados include targeted interventions to the public via:
 - ▶ communication campaigns – Government information Service (GIS):
 - ▶ radio and TV slots
 - ▶ You Tube videos (and other visual media and social media sites)
 - ▶ Work on increasing biosecurity at the abattoirs (staff training and facility enhancement);
 - ▶ Farmer awareness (identifying and mapping all pig farms) and providing training on identifying signs of the disease.
 - ▶ ***Our focus is on increasing farm biosecurity and building up trust and a working relationship with the farming community.***



How are we prepared for trade continuity in the case of an outbreak?

- ▶ Barbados is a net importer of commercial goods and our export market for pork and pork products is exceedingly small.
- ▶ In the event of an ASF outbreak, our export of these limited products will be reduced or terminated.
- ▶ Our main concern would be protecting our fragile local market for pork and related pork products (food security).



THANK YOU