

## ASF Eradication from the Dominican Republic and Haiti

In the Dominican Republic, ASF entered in February 1978, and subsequently it entered Haiti in December 1978, with the classical form characterized by high mortality. The disease probably entered the Dominican Republic through infected pork scraps from an international flight from Spain and spread rapidly throughout the country (54). When the disease was confirmed in the Dominican Republic in July 1978, an agreement was reached between the two countries to slaughter all swine within 15 km on both sides of the border (53). With the cooperation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United States, and the International Development Agency, all outbreaks were eradicated from the Dominican Republic and total depopulation was achieved. In July 1980, in an effort to detect the residual virus, sentinel pigs were introduced for repopulation. Up until September 1981, no cases of clinical disease were recorded, and all serological tests of newly introduced pigs were negative (54).

While the Dominican Republic endorsed an eradication program, Haiti took no actions at the beginning of the outbreak, either because of lack of funds or appropriate animal health infrastructure. With the support of four countries, the U.S. Animal Health Association, the U.S. National Pork Producers Council, and the National Association of State Department of Agriculture, an eradication program was drafted and started in Haiti in April 1981. It comprised 4 phases: (I) Six months of planning and information/public education; (II) Slaughter/compensation; (III) Cleaning and disinfection and raking; and (IV) The establishment of pig sentinels. Eradication was possible through the elimination of the swine population with the support of the Haitian Army, but the public information program was considered crucial for gaining the cooperation of the rural population. Haiti declared eradication on 28 April 1982 (53). Furthermore, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and FAO defined emergency measures and training activities for field and laboratory, for the early identification of cases, and a specific program was established to coordinate ASF control for Latin America and the Caribbean. Together with the government of Jamaica, PAHO worked very closely with the veterinary services of Haiti to strengthen their capacities, quarantine measures, to review regulations governing entry of pigs and pork products into the country, to provide training involving customs, police, and animal health personnel, and to investigate deaths in pigs (53).

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