



## MOAC Plan for Bolstering Thailand to Maintain ASF Free Country in ASEAN

Over the past two years, Thailand has effectively prevented its territories from the introduction of African Swine Fever (ASF). While more than 34 countries around the world have been greatly affected, Thailand is the only country in Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) that has been successfully maintaining a status free of this highly contagious and deadly viral disease. As a result, the export of pigs in the past year has increased more than 300% to a value of 22 billion baht with an expectation of continuous growing this year.

Dr. Chalermchai Sreeon, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) vows to continue pushing Thailand to maintain the ASEAN Championship, free from the African Swine Fever, by using the Preventive Action Plan. This plan, including the measures to support pig production, enhance the processing industry and advance pig farm standards, have reinforced more than tripling in the increase of pig products exports. It is expected that the trend will be furthering this year because of trust and confidence placed by all trade partners around the world.

According to Mr. Alongkorn Polabut, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the MOAC will pursue Dr. Sreeon's policy of "creating opportunities amidst the crisis". This means, the MOAC through its operating agency, the Department of Livestock Development, will work proactively to prevent the spread of African Swine Fever in high-risk areas, especially in bordering provinces.

"To create jobs, generate income for farmers and the country, and increase economic value of at least 150 billion baht relating to the pig production and associated industries, as well as to maintain the food security of the country, especially in times of COVID 19 crisis, the measures proposed by Dr. Sreeon were granted an approval from the cabinet on February 2, 2021" Mr. Polabut further stated. The cabinet allocated the budget for the fiscal year 2021--the central budget of the reserve payment for the case emergency or necessary--for the African Swine Fever preventive measures on compensation for dispose of pigs under Section 13 (4) of the Animal Epidemic Act, B.E. 2558 (2015). A total budget of 279,782,374 baht will be allocated to farmers affected by African Swine Fever preventive measures. According to the MOAC, the Department of Livestock Development has successfully blocked the introduction of African Swine Fever by reducing the population of high-risk pigs in 108 districts of 27 provinces bordered by neighboring countries by 15%. This impacted approximately 6,485 farmers and 77,578 pigs.





In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives will continue upgrading measures to manage all pig farming to meet national standards. These measures are the preparation for preventive control of disease that may occur in the future, especially in small-scale farmers with free range farming who are at high risk of infection and may be a carrier for spreading disease into a broader area as well.

Actions needed to reduce the population of high-risk pigs in the area, according to Section 13 (4) of the Animal Epidemic Act 2015 and the Ministerial Regulation 2017 prescribing compensation for the prices of destroyed animals due to an epidemic, or suspicions of an epidemic, or an animal or carcass that is a carrier of the epidemic. The law is required to compensate the owner of an animal or carcass three quarters of the price of an animal or carcass sold in the local market prior to the plague. For the Animal price compensation, the Provincial Governor will appoint an animal price appraisal board. The board consists of 1 veterinarian and at least 2 local administrative staffs or local employees as members. In this case, the MOAC will expedite coordination with relevant agencies to take immediate compensation in accordance with the regulations, to further mitigate the impact of farmers from measures to prevent the spread of African Swine Fever.

Reference source: <https://www.moac.go.th/news-preview-431991791017>

