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AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN MOZAMBIQUE

Emergency report

Text of a fax received on 13 November 1997 from Dr F.G. Pinto, Head of the Animal Health Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Maputo:

Nature of diagnosis: clinical, post-mortem and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 5 October 1997.

Estimated date of first infection: 28 September 1997.

Location	No. of outbreaks
suburb of Maputo City (26° S - 32° 36' E)	2

Description of affected population: breeding stock.

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
113	64	64	49	0

Laboratory where diagnosis was made: Veterinary Research National Institute, Maputo.

Epidemiology: this is the first time the disease has been reported in this stock.

Control measures during reporting period: stamping out; disinfection of affected piggeries; movement of pigs and pig meat prohibited in the area.

RABBIT ENTEROCOLITIS IN FRANCE

Emergency report

Translation of a fax received on 13 November 1997 from Dr B. Vallat, Head of the Department of Food Quality and Animal and Plant Health Actions, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Paris:

Background and description of disease:

A new form of rabbit enteritis which recently appeared in Europe has been observed in France since early 1997.

The disease affects animals during the initial weeks of fattening. A nutritional cause was first suspected but has since been ruled out as a major factor.

The most likely hypothesis remains that of a viral infection, with the virus being transported from one farm to another in feed. Two research teams (at INRA* and CNEVA**) are proceeding to identify a virus recently isolated by CNEVA. The above hypothesis is likely to be confirmed within the next few days.

The pathology, in which intestinal transit is slowed and then blocked, results in high mortality (40-80%) in young fattening rabbits aged between five and seven weeks. The disease appears to be highly contagious within rabbit farms. While it mainly affects young rabbits it may also be observed in reproductive stock.

The disease spreads rapidly: according to the replies from groups of breeders who responded to an initial survey (i.e. approximately half of the existing groups, representing around 1,500 farms), 20% of farms experienced cases of enterocolitis at the end of August compared to 6% one month before. The results of a survey currently being carried out are expected in November.

Preventive measures in farms:

Preventive measures have been implemented to avoid any further spread of the disease. These include:

- restrictions on visits to farms and between farmers;
- systematic use of disposable overalls, gloves and boots;
- washing of tyres of transport vehicles, cages and any material introduced into the farm;
- where appropriate, spreading of lime around the building.

* INRA: National Institute for Agricultural Research.

** CNEVA: National Centre for Veterinary and Food Studies.

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