Towards an Institutional Policy Model for African Swine Fever Mitigation: Government Response Strategies and Its Economic Impact in Lobo, Batangas

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Abstract

African Swine Fever (ASF) remains one of the most devastating animal diseases affecting the swine industry, posing significant threats to food security, rural livelihoods, and local economies. This study investigated the effectiveness of government response strategies in mitigating ASF outbreaks and their economic impact on communities in Lobo, Batangas, Philippines. Specifically, it examined the influence of prevention and control measures, public awareness and education campaigns, resource allocation and financial support, collaboration with local authorities, and monitoring and surveillance systems on livestock losses, market disruptions, employment opportunities, economic recovery, and community livelihoods. The study employed a descriptive-correlational research design using a mixed-methods approach. Data were gathered from 150 respondents composed of local hog raisers, government officials, veterinarians, business owners, and community leaders through structured surveys, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, while qualitative responses were subjected to thematic analysis to provide deeper insights into stakeholder experiences and perceptions. Findings revealed that government response strategies were generally effective in containing ASF outbreaks and minimizing their adverse economic consequences. Prevention and control measures, coupled with active surveillance and public awareness programs, significantly contributed to reducing disease transmission and improving compliance among stakeholders. However, disparities in resource distribution, limited technological support, and delays in financial assistance constrained the overall effectiveness of intervention programs. The study further identified stakeholder collaboration, community participation, and timely information dissemination as critical factors in strengthening outbreak management and accelerating economic recovery. Based on the findings, the study proposes an Integrated ASF Resilience and Economic Recovery Framework that emphasizes disease prevention, sustainable livestock management, stakeholder collaboration, community engagement, and responsive policy implementation. The framework provides practical guidance for policymakers, local government units, veterinary authorities, and agricultural stakeholders in enhancing preparedness, resilience, and long-term sustainability in ASF-affected communities.

Keywords: African Swine Fever (ASF), government response strategies, economic resilience, livestock disease management, community livelihoods