

THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF BACKYARD SWINE RAISERS AFFECTED BY AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) IN TALICUD ISLAND**Diaz, Jet Roy
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INTRODUCTION
BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

The African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak has had a tremendous impact on the global hog business, resulting in enormous economic losses affecting hog raisers' livelihoods. In 2020, the first instance of ASF infection was discovered in the Davao region, notably in Davao Occidental and some parts of Samal Island (Israel, 2023). Talicud Island, a component island part of Samal Island, though by its nature geographically separate from mainland Samal Island and the rest of Davao Region. Investigation revealed that the infection have gained entry into the island through some unsuspecting traders plying the sea routes of Talicud- Davao directly defying quarantine restrictions implemented during the onset of the epidemic in the region.

After the onslaught of the disease, there were about 3,038 hogs were eliminated in the implementation of the island wide depopulation in the hope of halting the progress of the epidemic. There were about 702 hog raiser farmers affected sending farmer households it total economic and emotional shocked. And it took nearly four (4) months or so after intensified disinfection, environmental swabbing, quarantine lockdowns and surveillance operations Talicud Island finally declared ASF free by the authorities. (City Veterinary Office, 2022)

National government response was slow because of the magnitude of the outbreak in the national scale. Local government's response was immediate but proved to be extortionate than the estimates. Responsible office of the local governments were scrambling to implement a magnitude of control initiatives that will be implemented on the unwilling participants.

Understanding the predicament that Samal Island hog farmers are in during the ASF outbreak is crucial for a number of reasons. First of all, it provides understanding of the problems and difficulties these individuals encounter, helping decision-makers and other interested parties create appropriate interventions and support systems. It also makes the effects of the ASF outbreak on society and the economy clearer. Finally, studying the coping mechanisms used by hog farmers can provide insightful knowledge and best practices for reducing the effects of upcoming disease outbreaks.

There is a need for locally focused research that focuses on the unique circumstances of hog raisers in *Talicud Island, in Samal*, even if some studies have looked at the economic impact of ASF on a national scale. Such research can offer a more thorough understanding of the difficulties encountered by hog farmers in this area and the distinctive dynamics affecting their experiences. Even though several studies have examined the economic impact of ASF on a national basis, more regionally focused study is still needed to fully understand the unique circumstances of hog raisers in *Talicud Island*. Such studies can provide a deeper comprehension of the challenges faced by hog farmers in this region and the unique dynamics influencing their experiences.

This study aims to explore the realities of hog producers in Talicud Island in light of the ASF outbreak. The purpose of this study is to advance our understanding of ASF by examining the challenges, consequences on the economy, and coping strategies that hog producers, especially backyard small holdings hog raisers, encounter. Policymakers, agricultural groups, and stakeholders can all benefit from the useful information it provides. The research findings can also aid in the creation of targeted interventions and support programs aimed at assisting not only Talicud Island but the entire Samal Island hog raising community in regaining their livelihoods and effectively managing the ASF pandemic.

Statement of the Problem

The purpose of this phenomenology study is to uncover the actual experiences of the Samal Island hog farmers who were greatly affected by the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF).

Specifically, the following objectives were addressed at the end of the study:

1. To discover the lived experiences of the hog raisers during African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak
2. To bring to light the different coping mechanism of hog raisers in managing the phenomenon

3.To provide the community and the local government learning insights and respond appropriately during similar livestock emergencies.

Significance of the Study

The findings of the study will extremely useful in addressing issues and concerns about the live experiences of hog raisers during African swine fever in Talicud Island. As a result, the following entities and will individuals have benefit greatly from this.

Swine Raisers. By documenting the experiences of backyard swine raisers, this study provides valuable insights into the economic repercussions of ASF on small-scale farmers. Understanding these impacts can help in developing targeted support and recovery programs to alleviate financial burdens.

Policy Maker. The findings offer empirical data that can inform local and national policy decisions, helping to design effective ASF control and prevention measures that are responsive to the needs of backyard farmers. Moreover, Understanding the specific challenges faced by backyard swine raisers enables more efficient allocation of resources, ensuring that aid reaches those most in need and is used effectively.

Veterinary Sector. Insights from the lived experiences of affected farmers contribute to a better understanding of ASF transmission dynamics at the grassroots level. This knowledge is crucial for devising practical and effective disease management and biosecurity protocols. The study highlights the importance of engaging local communities in disease prevention efforts. Effective communication strategies can be developed based on the experiences and suggestions of the swine raisers themselves.

Definition of Terms

The operational definition was used for the purpose of clarifications in the study

African Swine Fever (ASF) - is a highly contagious viral disease of pigs. In its acute form the disease generally results in high mortality. ASF is a different disease to swine flu. The virus does not affect people and there is no impact on human health.

Coping Mechanism - is a strategy or behavior that individuals use to manage stress, anxiety, and other difficult emotions.

Hog Raisers - also known as swine or pig farmers, are individuals or businesses engaged in the breeding, raising, and managing of pigs for various purposes, primarily for meat production.

Live Experience - refers to the firsthand involvement or direct participation in events or activities as they happen, rather than learning about them through secondary sources like books, videos, or other people's accounts

CHAPTER II

Review of Related Literature

African Swine Fever (ASF)

African swine fever (ASF) has become a major disease of concern for Europe, Asia and Africa due to its economic impact on pig breeding. Being currently present in eastern Europe and Belgium, there is a great concern for further spread within the European Union (EU) to non-affected Member States (MSs). To design more specific measures for the prevention and control of ASF, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was asked to identify the main knowledge gaps that currently hamper an effective management of the disease.

Relevant stakeholders involved in the prevention and control of ASF in the EU were identified and an online survey was sent to these players using the 'EU Survey' tool. Each interviewee was asked to reflect the three most important priorities to be addressed in their country. The resulting answers were stratified according to the type of stakeholder in the management of ASF and to the epidemiological situation of their country. The answers received reflected the subjective perception of the stakeholders that replied to the questionnaire.

Biosecurity Measures

According to an article, it is crucial to have a robust disease prevention program to safeguard against the virus (Wang et al., 2018). Daily good hygiene can also help reduce germs entering the farm and keep the animals healthier (The Livestock Project, 2022). Furthermore, a biosecurity plan was recommended as one of the valuable solutions to the problem (GF-TAD, n.d.). Biosecurity measures such as restricting visitor access, implementing good hygiene practices, disinfecting footwear or using dedicated footwear, maintaining closed herds, and quarantining new animals can prevent the introduction of viruses onto farms.

This plan identifies potential pathways for introducing and preventing the spread of the disease into a country, zone, compartment, or farm. It describes the measures that are being applied to lessen the risk.

Economic Losses

According to a study by Cooper et al. (2022), both small and large farmers have suffered financial losses due to the ASF epidemic. Although commercial farms may have more financial resources to cope with the impact of ASF for longer, all farmers have been affected by the outbreak. To support the value chain, governments could focus on aiding backyard farmers who expressed a desire to return to pig farming. Getting these farmers back into the industry is crucial to ensure the continuity of the value chain. Weaver and Habib's (2020) research highlight the concerning effects of ASF in the Republic of China and surrounding areas. The study found that ASF has had a considerable economic impact, with direct costs reaching up to \$130 billion for China, which produces half of the world's pork. Smallholders have disproportionately felt this burden and are now more vulnerable to poverty and food insecurity. Additionally, ASF has caused an increase in pork and food prices, negatively impacting human health, trade, climate change resilience, and local environments.

Boarder Control

Strict border control is necessary to lessen the chances of different countries being infected with the virus. In their 2020 study, the researchers found that controlling ASF is difficult due to geography, inadequate veterinary structures, and ineffective animal traceability systems (Bora et al., 2020). South Korea's mitigation plan is to have a control zone within a 500-meter radius of an infected farm, a protection zone within a 3-kilometer radius, and a surveillance zone between a 3- and 10-kilometer radius (Kim et al., 2021). The United States Department of Agriculture (n.d.) recommends that international travelers declare if they have recently visited farms to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Additionally, they advise these individuals to ensure that any clothing or shoes worn around pigs have been adequately cleaned, disinfected, or disposed of before re-entering the U.S. This is to prevent the spread of potential diseases.

Coping Mechanism

Numerous studies agree that individuals will seek alternatives to cope with a phenomenon. In the study of Xu et al. (2021), pig farmers have two approaches to coping with epidemics: problem-orientedness and emotion-orientedness, influenced by their perception of epidemic risk and attitude toward managing. Higher risk perception leads to problem-oriented coping, while a heightened sense of ability and lower perception of effort lead to corresponding behaviors. The Vice President of the People for the Ethical Treatment (PETA) of Asia, Jason Baker, suggests a problem-oriented coping approach for farmers in the Philippines (SciDev.Net, 2021). He proposes they use their land to grow sustainable and healthy crops that do not threaten any lives. Mr. Baker also recommends that Filipino shoppers shift to safer vegan foods like tofu. A scholarly paper represents the best illustration of emotion-orientedness that avoiding dealing with a problem leads to a higher degree of depression, anxiety, and stress (Elshaer, 2023). With that in mind, coping, in any way, is imperative to lessen the adverse effect of a phenomenon. In a different context, Dayour et al. (2020) expressed that small-medium enterprise (SME) owners should prioritize having insurance as one crucial measure to cope with the losses from the impact of the COVID19 pandemic.

CHAPTER III METHODOLOGY

Research Design

A qualitative approach explored hog raisers' experiences during the ASF outbreak in Samal Island. Specifically, a phenomenology approach will be chosen to uncover their firsthand *experiences*. This involved interviews with individuals who experienced the phenomenon, which is the foundation of phenomenological investigation (Alhazmi & Kaufmann, 2022). According to Creswell (1998) and Moustakas (1994), this phenomenological inquiry describe the "lived experiences" of one or several individuals, the phenomenon that has been explored through the eyes of the owner of the lived experience helped the researcher bring the often overlooked human expedience into consciousness. It asks foundational questions such as: What makes something what it is? It requires methodology, carefully and thoroughly capturing and describing how people experience some phenomenon how they perceive it, describe it. Feel about it, judge it., remember it, make sense of it, and talk about it with others" (Patton,2002)

Research Participants

The researchers will use a non-probability sampling method, particularly the purposive sampling technique since this approach allows the researchers to choose the qualified key informants based on the inclusion criteria. Consequently, fifteen (15) key informants will be chosen to participate in the study. The researchers set criteria to qualify individuals to participate; they must be hog raisers living and operating anywhere in Samal Island. Additionally, these informants must have firsthand experience

of the ASF since that is the considered phenomenon of the study. Moreover, these informants should be willing and not forced to participate in the data gathering.

Research Instrument

This present study will utilize a validated and semi-structured interview guide crafted by the researchers to collect the lived experiences of the hog raisers during the outbreak. In the actual interview, the interviewer, who is the primary researcher, will cover the first part of the interview guide, which addresses the lived experiences of hog raisers during the African swine fever. After that, the interviewer will now ask questions about the challenges faced by the hog raisers during the outbreak and how they coped with those challenges they encountered.

Data Gathering Procedure

The researchers adopted the idea of Kvale's (1996) who detailed seven stages of conducting in-depth-interview: thematizing, designing, interviewing, transcribing, analyzing, verifying, and reporting. The interview navigates on the lived experiences of backyard hog raisers during African Swine Fever Outbreak. The interview of the participants lasted 30 to 45 minutes. The interview was recorded using voice audio-recording. After the interview, the researchers transcribed the data and analyzed it using coding and themes. In analyzing the qualitative data, researchers used thematic analysis. It is a method of identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns within data (Braun and Clarke, 2006).

In this study, researchers looked for patterns, core ideas, and themes. These patterns were used to generate codes that gave a clearer emphasis on the common experiences of the backyard hog raisers during African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak. For the coding, researchers used the idea of Glesne (1999) who described coding as a progressive process of sorting and defining and sorting pieces of data. Similar to Glesne (1999) researchers also adopted Mile and Huberman (1994) frameworks which is similar to the process of utilizing thematic analysis- collect data, coding data, code validation, themes and frameworks identification, and information consolidation Furthermore, the selected participant's profile and identities were concealed as each participant were coded to ensure anonymity. However, the informants of this study had the right to refuse and were not forced to participate since their participation is voluntary. As a researcher, they also have the freedom to exclude the participants as part of my study when they fail to comply with the required responses in the study.

Data Analysis

As revealed by qualitative research in Creswell's 2007 work, attention is frequently drawn to the experiences of a small number of people when studying a topic that affects a large number of people. However, once the researchers are aware that the key informants were the fact of interest, generalization loses all relevance. A case study design should be taken into consideration when a) study aims to answer the "how" and "why" questions, b) participant responses cannot be manipulated, c) one wishes to cover the contextual circumstances of the phenomenon relevant to the study, or d) there are unclear boundaries between the phenomenon and the study's background.

CHAPTER IV RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Live experiences of the Hog Raisers during African Swine Fever (ASF) Outbreak

Theme 1: Fear of Livelihood loss

For a prolonged time, pig farmers in Talicud Island have been expressing major concerns about the ASF virus due to its terrible impact on the local swine sector. The deadly and extremely contagious ASF virus can infect both domestic and wild pigs. ASF can spread rapidly through direct contact with sick pigs, contaminated food, or even accidental contact with infected things, which is why it is concerning. Once established, the virus can result in exceptionally high rates of pig mortality, often necessitating the culling of afflicted herds in order to prevent the virus from spreading. The downturn of the local pork supply chain results in higher prices and potential economic instability for the pig farmers, not to mention huge financial losses. For pig farmers, this is even more concerning because there is no known vaccine or treatment for the ASF virus. Pigs who are infected frequently exhibit symptoms such as fever, loss of appetite, and internal bleeding, which can quickly worsen their condition. The virus can remain in the environment for extended periods of time, making it challenging to stop its transmission.

Pig farmers in Talicud Island are worried about the immediate effects on their businesses in addition to the possibility that ASF would entirely eradicate the swine population in the area, compromising their way of life and financial security. Because of this, there is now more concern about ASF, which emphasizes the need for stringent biosecurity protocols, public education campaigns, and early government intervention to contain and contain possible outbreaks.

The response of Key Informant No. 9 expressly said that “*Perting guola gyud namo sir kay gilaliman kag panguhaon ang mga baboy. Asa naman mi kakita ug panginabuhian ini. Mao ra jod among gisaligan ultimo pangunsumo namo diha kuhaa. Wala nay magpautang tindahan kung walay magarantiya nga mga kahayopan*”

According to an article, it is crucial to have a robust disease prevention program to safeguard against the virus (Wang et al., 2018). Daily good hygiene can also help reduce germs entering the farm and keep the animals healthier (The Livestock Project, 2022). Furthermore, a biosecurity plan was recommended as one of the valuable solutions to the problem (GF-TAD, n.d.). Biosecurity measures such as restricting visitor access, implementing good hygiene practices, disinfecting footwear or using dedicated footwear, maintaining closed herds, and quarantining new animals can prevent the introduction of viruses onto farms. This plan identifies potential pathways for introducing and preventing the spread of the disease into a country, zone, compartment, or farm. It describes the measures that are being applied to lessen the risk

Theme 2. Frustration from the border controls and lockdowns.

The hog farmers in Talicud Island are more frustrated and worried due to the strict border controls and movement lockdowns implemented during the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak. These measures to stop the highly contagious virus from spreading have seriously disrupted farmers' normal operations and sources of livelihood, even if they are required. Lockdowns have impeded the movement of pigs and pork products, which has made it more challenging for farmers to meet customer demand and sell their cattle. This is the outcome of monetary losses as well as increased uncertainty regarding the business's future. An already challenging situation is made more frustrating by the uncertainty around when these restrictions might be lifted.

Furthermore, it has become difficult to obtain the feed and veterinary care required for pig farming because of the restrictions. Concerns concerning animal health and overall productivity have increased as a result of farmers needing assistance going to marketplaces and essential services. Pig farmers struggle to keep their swine healthy and happy, and this makes it more difficult for them to react swiftly to issues like feed shortages or to provide prompt veterinary care. The combined effects of economic hardship and logistical obstacles have highlighted the delicate balance that authorities must find between curbing the ASF pandemic and minimizing the detrimental effects on the livelihoods of pig breeders in Cebu Province.

Key Informant no. 2 also stated that “*perti gyud lisura adtong panahona, lisod na ang pagtabok, naa na estrikto nga checkpoint sa pantalan pasulod ug pagawas sa isla, inspection sa kargamento ug pagkompiska sa mga kontrabando nga karne sa baboy luto o hilaw. Wala naman pod baboy sa isla nga nabilin.*”

Strict border control is necessary to lessen the chances of different countries being infected with the virus. In their 2020 study, the researchers found that controlling ASF is difficult due to geography, inadequate veterinary structures, and ineffective animal traceability systems (Bora et al., 2020). South Korea's mitigation plan is to have a control zone within a 500-meter radius of an infected farm, a protection zone within a 3-kilometer radius, and a surveillance zone between a 3- and 10-kilometer radius (Kim et al., 2021). The United States Department of Agriculture (n.d.) recommends that international travelers declare if they have recently visited farms to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Additionally, they advise these individuals to ensure that any clothing or shoes worn around pigs have been adequately cleaned, disinfected, or disposed of before re-entering the U.S. This is to prevent the spread of potential diseases

Theme 3. Incurred substantial financial loss.

African Swine Fever (ASF) has caused the swine sector to incur huge financial losses. Transportation limitations, along with the imposition of municipal lockdowns in key places like as Island Garden City of Samal specifically in Talicud Island have significantly restricted the movement of pigs and disrupted the supply chain. Small-town markets are now overrun with pigs as a result. The oversupply of local markets has resulted in a dramatic fall in the price of purchasing live pigs. As demand drops as a result of decreased economic activity and consumer anxiety, an oversupplied market and declining prices have gravely jeopardized the financial security of pig farmers.

Pig farmers are facing a challenging situation due to the interrelated difficulties of ASF and supply chain interruptions caused by lockdowns. Their failure to enter large markets has resulted in inventory surpluses and hindered their ability to enter higher-value markets, which has increased their losses. The survival of many pig farming operations is seriously threatened by the decreased pricing of pig live weight, which must be used to pay production expenses. In order for pig farmers to weather this storm and rebuild their industry in the post-ASF landscape, addressing these financial losses necessitates a multifaceted approach that includes disease containment measures and strategic initiatives to establish alternative distribution channels, promote local consumption, and diversify revenue streams.

One of the key informants (No. 3) “*Sakit jud kaayo sir. Mao baya gyud na among gisaligan sa panginabuhi. Naglibog nagyud mi ug unsaon namo pagsurvive ani kay back to zero naman gyod. Dili man gud masaligan ang panagat ug pananom.*”

Gikuha nila ang among mga baboy nga mga healthy man kaayo to. Dako pa kaayo ug potential nga maka income mi adto alang sa mga panginahanglan sa pamilya”

According to a study by Cooper et al. (2022), both small and large farmers have suffered financial losses due to the ASF epidemic. Although commercial farms may have more financial resources to cope with the impact of ASF for longer, all farmers have been affected by the outbreak. To support the value chain, governments could focus on aiding backyard farmers who expressed a desire to return to pig farming. Getting these farmers back into the industry is crucial to ensure the continuity of the value chain. Weaver and Habib's (2020) research highlights the concerning effects of ASF in the Republic of China and surrounding areas. The study found that ASF has had a considerable economic impact, with direct costs reaching up to \$130 billion for China, which produces half of the world's pork. Smallholders have disproportionately felt this burden and are now more vulnerable to poverty and food insecurity. Additionally, ASF has caused an increase in pork and food prices, negatively impacting human health, trade, climate change resilience, and local environments

Coping Mechanism of Hog Raisers

Theme no. 4: Transitioning into Fishing and Farming Activities

The outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) has had devastating effects on hog raisers, compelling them to seek alternative livelihoods. Many hog raisers shifted to fishing and farming as these activities provided immediate and relatively low-cost alternatives to hog raising. This transition was driven by the urgent need to secure an income following the loss of their primary source of livelihood. The transition from hog raising to fishing and farming among ASF-affected individuals showcases a multifaceted approach to cope from negative effect of African Swine Fever Outbreak in the locality. These coping mechanisms not only helped in immediate recovery but also contributed to building long-term resilience against future shocks.

Theme no. 5: Diversification of Livestock and Poultry

Despite the loss of their hogs, many raisers maintain small-scale poultry or other livestock operations to sustain their daily needs. These alternative sources of food and income provide a crucial safety net. Hog raisers display significant adaptability by diversifying their agricultural activities. This not only provides immediate sustenance but also serves as a longer-term coping strategy to mitigate the risks associated with relying on a single type of livestock.

“We still have chickens, and they help us get by. We sell the eggs and sometimes the chickens themselves to make sure we have money for food and other necessities.”

Theme 6. Desperation and Immediate Needs of Funds

Many ASF-affected hog raisers turn to high-interest credit options, despite the steep 15% interest rates, due to immediate financial pressures. The sudden loss of hogs due to African Swine Fever (ASF) creates a financial void that must be filled urgently to maintain household stability. The lack of accessible, affordable credit options forces farmers into predatory lending situations. Traditional banks and financial institutions often have stringent requirements that these small-scale farmers cannot meet, leaving them with little choice but to accept high-interest loans.

“We had no other choice but to take the loan. The hogs were our main income source, and without them, we needed money quickly to cover basic expenses and other obligations.”

Numerous studies agree that individuals will seek alternatives to cope with a phenomenon. In the study of Xu et al. (2021), pig farmers have two approaches to coping with epidemics: problem-orientedness and emotion-orientedness, influenced by their perception of epidemic risk and attitude toward managing. Higher risk perception leads to problem-oriented coping, while a heightened sense of ability and lower perception of effort lead to corresponding behaviors. The Vice President of the People for the Ethical Treatment (PETA) of Asia, Jason Baker, suggests a problem-oriented coping approach for farmers in the Philippines (SciDev.Net, 2021). He proposes they use their land to grow sustainable and healthy crops that do not threaten any lives. Mr. Baker also recommends that Filipino shoppers shift to safer vegan foods like tofu. A scholarly paper represents the best illustration of emotion-orientedness that avoiding dealing with a problem leads to a higher degree of depression, anxiety, and stress (Elshaer, 2023). With that in mind, coping, in any way, is imperative to lessen the adverse effect of a phenomenon.

Government Interventions in ASF-affected Hog raisers

Theme 7: Aggressiveness of Government Measures

The response of the government to the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak has been described as "really aggressive." This aggressiveness is reflected in the comprehensive efforts to eradicate the disease from the island. The statement "until the island is clean of the disease" suggests a committed, long-term approach to controlling and eliminating ASF. Such measures likely include extensive culling of affected animals, strict quarantine protocols, and rigorous monitoring of both livestock and wildlife populations.

Theme 8: Provision of Aid and Support

During the epidemic, affected hog raisers acknowledged the receipt of various forms of aid. This assistance came in the form of financial support, resources for disease control, and other necessary provisions to help them cope with the impact of ASF. The recognition of these aids indicates that the government made significant efforts to mitigate the economic and social consequences of the epidemic on local hog raisers.

The Department of Agriculture's promise of 5,000 pesos in monetary aid was meant to be a lifeline for the pig farmers struggling with mounting costs and unstable markets during the ASF outbreak (DA Press Office, 2021). Nevertheless, when days became weeks, and weeks became months, that hope vanished and was replaced with a sharp pain of disappointment. As the pig farmer thinks about lost possibilities to take care of their swine, invest in necessary resources, and offer a semblance of stability for their family, the weight of broken promises hangs heavily over them.

Key informant stated that *“base sa mga nanghitabo, na limpyo ang isla sa sakit. Duna pod mga ayuda nga among nadawat panahon sa epidemya. Srikto ang mga pantalan, monitoring sa kabukiran mao nasakpan ang mga baoy nga gipangoan, gituman gyd sa local nga panggamhanan ang mga pasalig panahon sa epidemya. Ang D.A nga ayuda sir amoa pa nga gipaabot kay wala pa gyud. Ang problema lang sa isla kay taas kaayo ang baybay diin pwede modunggo ang mga baroto gikan sa laing lugar”*

In other provinces, like Antique, the provincial government gave the farmers two million pesos as financial aid (Petinglay, 2023). The amount varies, such as 2,000 pesos for farmers with one to five hog mortalities, 3,000 pesos for six to nineteen deaths, and 4,000 pesos for twenty deaths and above. Financial aid amounting to 10.4 million was distributed to 1,225 swine farmers in twenty municipalities in Iloilo province, according to PICA's report in 2023. Additionally, the provincial government has implemented a sentinel program at the barangay level as part of their plan for virus recovery

**CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION**

This phenomenological investigation has shed insight into the significant impact that ASF has had on the local hog sector in Talicud Island. Through in-depth interviews, the study unveiled numerous aspects of this horrible condition. The first focus of the study is on the real-world experiences of hog farmers in Talicud Island. Key informants describe an incomprehensible emotional and psychological toll that the outbreak has had on their lives as pig farmers and stakeholders, in addition to the economic and agricultural losses. ASF also had an impact on family relationships, as the financial strain and uncertainties caused domestic harmony to be strained, and the outbreak caused a sense of isolation and mistrust to disrupt once cohesive bonds within the farming community. Recent inconsistencies in the Department of Agriculture's policies were also found by the researchers. To contain the pandemic, provinces affected by African swine fever (ASF) have been color-coded. However, they have not granted shipping licenses for large ASF-free farms. The price of live hogs has been significantly impacted by this unexpected tactic, which has resulted in an oversupply of hogs originally intended for export on the local market. This uncertain market climate has exacerbated the financial challenges faced by backyard hog producers, whose revenue depends on consistent prices. There is an urgent need for a more comprehensive and well-rounded policy strategy to address these serious issues facing the swine industry. Given the themes that have been found, addressing the ASF outbreak in Talicud Island requires a multifaceted approach when examining the narratives of the key informants. Pig farmers demonstrated remarkable resilience and creativity by quickly adapting by moving to farming and fishing activities. Other farmers grew a variety of vegetables to help feed their family, and they would sell any extras to the local market. Some, on the other hand had diversified livestock farming to sustain their daily needs and other farmers delved into lending just to quickly respond their lost and use as start-up capital. Support networks that provide impacted individuals with financial assistance as well as emotional and psychological support are desperately needed. The results also emphasize how important it is to collaborate with local communities, scientists, and governmental agencies in order to develop long-term strategies for managing and preventing ASF in the future. This study provides insights into the experiences and difficulties faced by the local hog business in Cebu and emphasizes the need for coordinated measures to reduce the impact of ASF.

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APPENDIX I RESEARCH INSTRUMENT



THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF BACKYARD SWINE RAISERS AFFECTED BY AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) IN TALICUD ISLAND

Date of Interview: _____ Place: _____ Time Start: _____
Time End: _____

1. How are you at the moment?
2. Can you share with me a little background about yourself and your family? How would you describe your life in general?

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LIVE EXPERIENCES

3. How do you describe your experiences as an affected hog raisers during African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak?
4. How do African Swine Fever (ASF) affects your income?
5. Knowing that you are in an island city, how do you feel the boarder controls and lockdowns for swine import and export?

CHALLENGES

6. Did you encounter any challenging experiences in facing the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak?
 - 6.1 How did you overcome those challenges? (Were you able to overcome those challenges? If yes, how did you overcome them? If not, what strategies could have helped you overcome them?)

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS

7. Does the government aggressive enough in dealing deal with the epidemic?
 - 7.1 In your own assessment, are you satisfied with the local government's response to the livestock emergency? Why?
 - 7.2 Does government intervention helped you recover from crisis?