

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Taiwan Announces Details of Pork Industry Support and Upgrade Fund

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Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, National Plan, Policy and Program Announcements, Agriculture in the News, Livestock and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On February 18, Taiwan Premier Su Tseng-chang publicly presented the details of Taiwan's fund to support and upgrade its domestic pig industry. The fund will invest approximately \$NT 13 billion (\$US 468 million) over four years. This report contains an unofficial English translation of the Taiwan Executive Yuan's (EY) press release detailing the scope of the program, as well as a PowerPoint presentation by Taiwan's Council of Agriculture (Chinese only).

Executive Summary:

On February 18, Taiwan Premier Su Tseng-chang publicly presented the details of Taiwan's fund to support and upgrade its domestic pig industry. The fund will invest approximately \$NT 13 billion (\$US 468 million) over four years for a wide range of activities that upgrade production, processing, and distribution capacity.

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION:

Premier Su: Comprehensive transformation and upgrading of the pig industry to enhance competitiveness and check the health of the people

Date: 02-18-2021 Source: Press and Communication Office

After hearing the report of the Council of Agriculture on the “Comprehensive Transformation and Upgrading of the Pig Industry and the Establishment of a Demonstration System for Meat Products Cold Chain” at the Executive Yuan meeting today (February 18th), Executive President Su Zhen-chang said that, since expanding the market for U.S. pork imports, no imported pork was found to contain ractopamine and domestic pork consumption increased by 6,000 tons compared with the same period last year. In order to continue to strengthen the competitiveness of the pig industry, the Executive Yuan will invest nearly the NT\$ 13 billion pig fund in the next four years, from pig farms and transportation vehicles to slaughterhouses, the overall cold chain and temperature control of meat stalls. To upgrade and check the health of the Chinese people, pig farms must also be upgraded to make them more environmentally friendly and efficient.

Premier Su said that there are about 6,497 pig farmers in Taiwan with 5.51 million head of pigs. In 2020, the number of domestic slaughtered pigs was 8.18 million. The annual pork consumption in Taiwan was about 900,000 tons and the annual pork import volume. 61,000 tons, pork self-sufficiency rate is about 93 percent.

Premier Su pointed out that according to the pork (import data) dashboard, from January 1 to February 16, 2021, the statistics of Taiwanese pigs and imported pork. In this period, imports account for about eight percent of total consumption and other related edible parts of imported pork accounts for three percent of consumption. In addition, so far, after batch-by-batch inspection of imported pork from various countries, ractopamine has not been detected.

Premier Su further pointed out that the consumption of pigs in Taiwan from January 1 to February 16 in 2020 was 59,278 tons, compared to 62,245 tons in the same period in 2021. If other related edible parts are included, the consumption of pork in Taiwan in 2020 is higher than 2021 - an increase of 6,000 tons. Outsiders have criticized that "opening up to U.S. pork imports will cause domestic pork prices to collapse. Everyone dares not eat pork

and sales have dropped sharply." However, data shows that domestic pork consumption has increased by 6,000 tons compared with the same period of 2020. As a result of the speculation about a collapse of the domestic pork market, the government responded to this criticism of its policy by gradually reporting actual data.

Premier Su said that Taiwan has successfully defended against African swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination and now it can export fresh pork. The confidence and demand for Taiwan pork is increasing. Therefore, (Premier Su asked) how to upgrade the pig farm to make it more environmentally friendly and efficient? In the process of raising pigs, there can be a cleaner and high-quality breeding environment. This is the goal of the government's efforts.

Premier Su emphasized that to continue to strengthen the competitiveness of the pig industry, improve the quality of domestic pork, reduce the impact of the pig industry on the environment, and expand the export of pork, the "Comprehensive Transformation and Upgrade Plan of the Pig Industry in Response to Trade Opening" was approved last month (January 2021) and will invest nearly NT\$ 13 billion over the next four years to enhance national pig raising in all aspects. These include maintaining domestic pig prices within a reasonable range through source adjustment and total management and implementing compulsory pig insurance to increase premium subsidies and reduce farmer business risk.

Premier Su further emphasized that the government also subsidizes pig house renovation and pollution prevention facilities to make pig farms cleaner and raise high-quality pigs, set up slaughter and freezing plants, subsidize temperature control equipment for transportation vehicles, and promote traditional temperature control equipment for meat stalls upgrade. In addition, we (the Taiwan authorities) actively negotiated export conditions and procedures, strengthened overseas expansion, and provided export incentives and subsidies to increase the export growth rate to more than 20 percent.

In addition, Premier Su said that since the opening of pork imports in January this year, with the clear marking of the origin and the implementation of border management, more than 400 batches of imported pork entering Taiwan have been inspected batch-by-batch, and there have been no detections of imported pork containing ractopamine. Taiwan's pork still accounts for 92 percent (of total consumption). It is clear that Taiwan people have confidence in the consumption of domestic pigs and are not affected by the new policy. In terms of prices, there have been no abnormal fluctuations, and the rights and interests of domestic pig farmers and consumers are being protected.

Premier Su asked the Council of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Ministry of Education and other ministries to continue to cooperate to do a good job in the inspection and safety of imported meat, promote the full use of domestic meat in campus lunch, and clearly label the origin of pork and its products. Let the people be at ease, and the industry will continue to upgrade.

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The original Chinese version can be found at the Taiwan EY website here:

<https://www.ey.gov.tw/Page/9277F759E41CCD91/9b7734ff-27ac-4dcb-9cb6-c4043588af32>

Attachments:

[Taiwan COA Pork Industry Fund PPT Presentation.pdf](#)