

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(80) 490 final

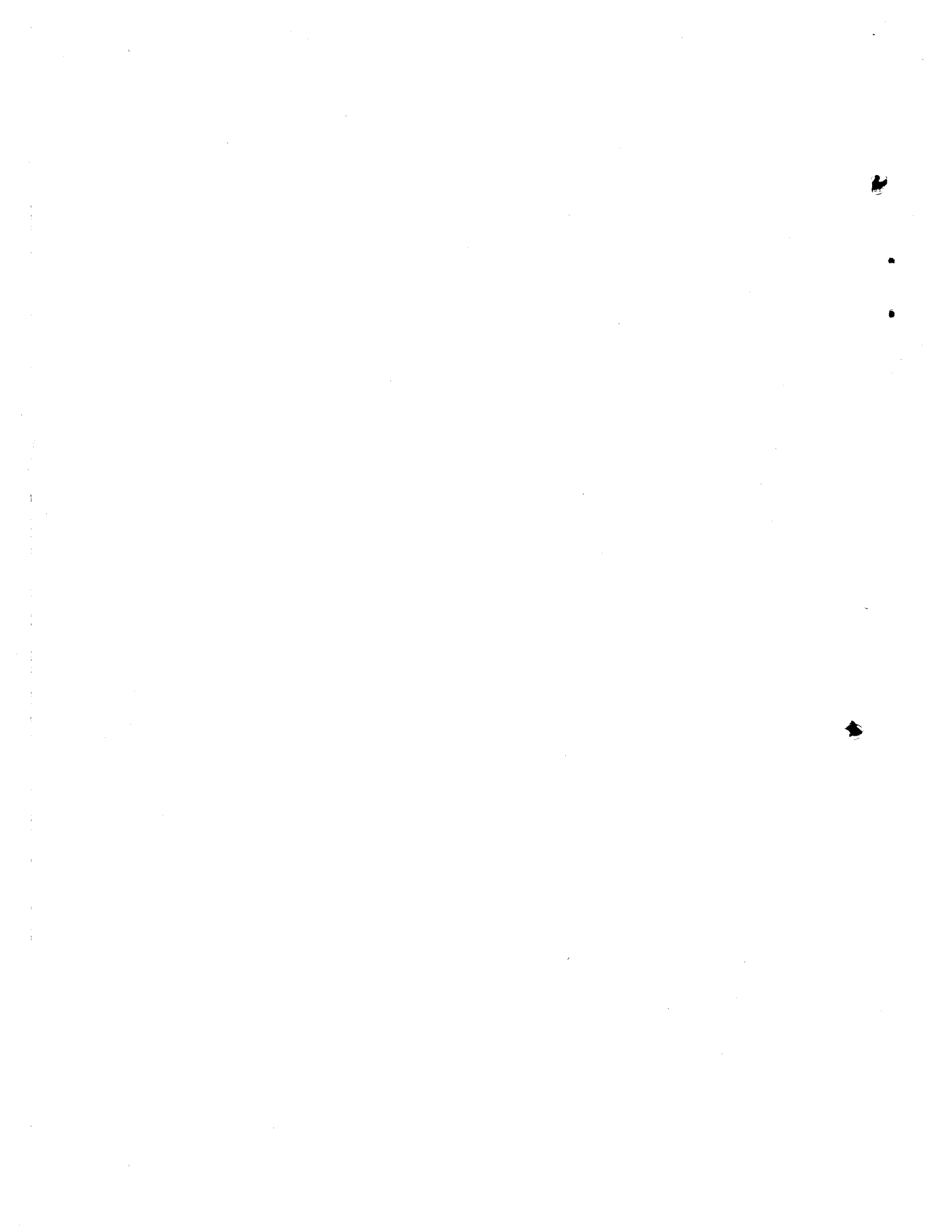
Brussels, 12 August, 1980

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION

on financial aid from the Community for the
eradication of African swine fever in Sardinia

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(80) 490 final



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

- African swine fever is a very serious specific contagious disease affecting swine. Once it appears on small farms the death rate can reach or exceed 80%. Its spread by different vectors (contaminated animals, meat and derived products, insects, waste, etc.) is very rapid and difficult to contain because there is no effective vaccine available at present.

The disease, which is enzootic in Africa, has been present in the Iberian peninsula for over 20 years. It reached Malta in 1978, where pig stocks were decimated, and was detected in Sardinia in the same year.

The measures taken immediately by the Italian authorities have succeeded so far in preventing the disease from spreading to other regions of the Community from Sardinia.

The measures taken with the aid of Community financing from the emergency veterinary fund (Council Decision 77/97/EEC) have rapidly eliminated the outbreak in the province of Cagliari, where the disease was diagnosed for the first time. In that province stock-farming structures are such that pigs and their movements could be properly supervised and as a result of effective protection the disease was prevented from spreading to the province of Oristano and Sassari. The same cannot be said for the province of Nuoro, where the disease seems to have taken hold and is spreading owing to the traditional system of stock-farming, which allows pigs to roam freely in communal grazing areas in the forests.

The persistence of African swine fever in a region of the Community, even if this region is an island, is a permanent threat to all the Member States because, whatever precautions are taken by the responsible authorities, the disease could be introduced accidentally on the continent by pigmeat-based products or food waste.

This grave risk prompted the Italian authorities and the Commission to consider a specific procedure for the total and definitive eradication of the disease in Sardinia. For this purpose the Italian Government requested financial aid from the Community to carry out the five year plan intended to eliminate the disease,

to prevent its reoccurrence by the restructuring of pig farming and by means of supplementary measures to maintain the disease-free situation by reforming the production structures and applying measures relating to public hygiene and the environment.

The European Parliament, concerned by the health situation in Italy, adopted at its sitting of 18 January 1980 Resolution 1-626/79 calling on the Commission to press forward implementation of a measure to eliminate African swine fever from the Community regions still affected.

The attached draft Council Decision on financial aid from the Community for the eradication of African swine fever in Sardinia is a response to the pressing concern to eliminate the disease and to ensure protection of the pig farms by reorganization.

However, to ensure that results gained are not thereafter forfeited, it may well be that this first emergency set of measures should be supplemented by a more general measure relating to the whole of Sardinia.

At present the Commission is examining this question and will, if appropriate, submit proposals.

Proposal for a
Council Decision

on financial aid from the Community for the eradication of African swine fever in
Sardinia

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas African swine fever appeared in Sardinia in 1977, and whereas, with a view to ensuring protection against the possible spread of the disease

and to contributing to its eradication, the Community has already given financial support to Italy under Council Decision 77/97/EEC of 21 December 1976

on the financing by the Community of certain emergency measures in the field of animal health⁽¹⁾;

Whereas the disease persists; whereas the action taken must therefore be reinforced in order to attain the basic objective, which is to eliminate African swine fever from Sardinia;

Whereas the Italian authorities have called upon the Commission to provide a contribution to the expenditure arising from the efficient implementation of a veterinary programme for the total and immediate eradication of the disease and longer-term measures intended to safeguard the results obtained;

Whereas a new larger-scale measure which does not fall within the procedures followed so far should provide a favourable response to this request by granting initial aid to Sardinia with a view to meeting the requirements of the present situation;

Whereas this eradication plan must include certain measures which ensure that the action taken is effective; whereas these measures must be capable of adoption and adaptation to developments in the situation by means of a procedure in which the Member States and the Commission are closely associated;

Whereas Member States must be kept informed of the progress of all aspects of the action taken,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Article 1

The Republic of Italy shall prepare an emergency plan for the eradication of African swine fever in Sardinia and the restructuring of pig farming.

This plan, to be carried out within a maximum period of five years, must comply with the provisions of Article 2 and be approved in accordance with Article 3.

Article 2

The plan specified in Article 1 must provide for :

1. rigorous eradication measures including the following :
 - (a) the slaughtering of all pigs in the province of Nuovo, in which the disease has spread;
 - (b) the destruction or consumption on the spot of all pigmeat on the territory referred to in (a) and all pigmeat-based products excluding preserves in sterilized tins;
 - (c) the cleansing, disinsectization, disinfection and deratization of farms and of all places liable to have been contaminated by pigs or by pigmeat and pigmeat-based products;
 - (d) the systematic serological detection of the disease in pigs on farms situated in neighbouring areas to the territory referred to in (a) or on farms which could present a contamination risk;
 - (e) the slaughtering of pigs which carry antibodies of the disease and the destruction of their meat;
 - (f) immediate and total compensation for owners whose pigs have been slaughtered under the plan.

2. Preventive measures including :

- (a) the control and systematic destruction of all waste from international means of transport;
- (b) the control and destruction of all scraps and swill from cooking and industrial processes using pigmeat;
- (c) the prohibition of the use for feeding pigs of scraps and swill from cooking or industrial processes using pigmeat;
- (d) the entomological study of the regions where the disease was diagnosed;
- (e) measures to combat ectoparasites of animals and the disinsectization of the latter;
- (f) carrying out and checking of disinfection and disinsectization of the means of transport;
- (g) the prohibition of any introduction onto the territory of the province where the systematic slaughtering of pigs has taken place of live pigs, irrespective of their origin and destination, for a period of at least one year after the completion of the measures specified in paragraph 1 (a), (b) and (c).

3. Measures for supervising restocking in the province referred to in paragraph 1(a) where slaughtering has been carried out, including:

- (a) the construction or renovation of piggeries in accordance with specifications appropriate to the purpose and providing satisfactory health protection;
- (b) rules governing the setting up of pig farms so as to prevent too large a number and in particular the return to small-scale rearing of pigs roaming freely;
- (c) the progressive restocking of piggeries/ by the introduction of breeding animals of sound health, this restocking being conditional on a period of health supervision by the introduction of tested "sentry" pigs; approved for housing pigs
- (d) health-protection supervision of all rearing establishments as they become operational;
- (e) supervision of all movements of pigs irrespective of their origin and destination;
- (f) financial aid during the period of prohibition referred to in paragraph 2 (g) to pig farmers for whom the breeding of pigs represents a substantial source of income.

4. restructuring and inspection measures relating to pig-rearing establishments throughout Sardinia, including:
- (a) the alteration of existing piggeries to provide satisfactory health protection, the possible regrouping of piggeries, as well as the terms governing the incentive measures, in particular the maximum and minimum size of such establishments ;
 - (b) health-protection supervision of pig-rearing establishments and the supervision of pig movements ;
 - (c) seriological control by spot checks on pigs in slaughterhouses ;
 - (d) inspection by laboratory spot checks of slaughtered wild swine.

Article 3

After studying the plan proposed by the Italian authorities and any amendments to be made thereto, the Commission shall decide, in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 8, whether or not to approve it. The Fund Committee shall be consulted on the financial aspects, the Standing Committee on Agricultural Structure on the structural aspects.

Article 4

The action provided for by this Decision, insofar as it aims to attain the objectives set out in Article 39(1) (a) of the Treaty, shall constitute a common measure within the meaning of Article 6(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 (2).

Article 5

1. The period of implementation of the common measure shall be five years from the date set by the Commission in its decision to approve the plan and not later than 1 February 1981.
2. The estimated cost chargeable to the Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund shall be 30 million European units of account.
3. Article 6(5) of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 shall apply to this Decision.

(2) OJ No L 94, 28.4.1970, p. 13.

Article 6

1. Provided that it complies with the plan approved by the Commission in accordance with Article 3, the following expenditure incurred by Italy shall be eligible for assistance from the Guidance Section of the EAGGF :
 - expenditure under Article 2(1)(a), (c), (d), (e) and (f), Article 2(2)(d), (e) and (f), Article 2(3)(a), (c), (d) and (f), and Article 2(4)(b), (c) and (d);
 - expenditure under Article 2 (4)(a).
2. The Fund shall reimburse 50 % of eligible expenditure up to a limit of 60 million EUA including a maximum of 20 million EUA in respect of expenditure incurred under the second indent of paragraph 1.
3. Detailed rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted, where required, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 13 of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70.

Article 7

1. Applications for payment shall relate to the expenditure incurred by Italy during the calendar year and shall be submitted to the Commission before 1 July of the following year.
2. The granting of aid from the Fund shall be decided in accordance with Article 7(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70.
3. Detailed rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 13 of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70.

Article 8

1. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be used, matters shall without delay be referred by the chairman, either on his own initiative or at the request of a Member State, to the Standing Veterinary Committee (hereinafter called the "Committee") set up by Council Decision 68/361/EEC⁽³⁾.
2. Within the Committee the votes of the Member States shall be weighted as provided in Article 148(2) of the Treaty. The chairman shall not vote.
3. The representative of the Commission shall submit a draft of the measures to be adopted. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on such measures within a time-limit set by the chairman according to the urgency of the matters concerned. Opinions shall be delivered by a majority of 41 votes.
4. The Commission shall adopt the measures and shall apply them immediately where they are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee. Where they are not in accordance with the opinion of the Committee or if no opinion is delivered, the Commission shall without delay propose to the Council the measures to be adopted. The Council shall adopt the measures by a qualified majority.

If, within three months from the date on which the proposal was submitted to it, the Council has not adopted any measures, the Commission shall adopt the proposed measures and apply them immediately.

Article 9

Article 8 shall apply until 21 June 1981.

(3) OJ No L 255, 18.10.1968, p. 23.

Article 10

1. The Commission shall keep under review the situation with regard to African swine fever in Sardinia and the implementation of the eradication plan. It shall inform the Member States within the Committee regularly, at least once a year, of developments in the light of the information given by the Italian authorities and of any reports from experts who, acting on behalf of the Community and appointed by the Commission, have made on-the-spot visits.
2. Should it prove necessary to amend the eradication plan during its implementation, a new decision approving it shall be taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Date : 25.7.1980

1. BUDGET HEADING : 8315 (system created by the 1981 budget) APPROPRIATIONS :

2. TITLE : Council Decision on financial aid from the Community for the eradication of African swine fever in Sardinia

3. LEGAL BASIS : Article 6 of Regulation 729/70

4. AIMS OF PROJECT : Eradication of African swine fever in Sardinia in order to protect Community pig herds.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS	CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR (80)	FOLLOWING FINANCIAL YEAR (81)	
5.0 EXPENDITURE	/			
- CHARGED TO THE EC BUDGET (REFUNDS/INTERVENTIONS)		-	token entry	
- NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION		-	26.5m EUA	
- OTHER		-	-	
5.1 RECEIPTS				
- OWN RESOURCES OF THE EC (LEVIES/CUSTOMS DUTIES)		-	-	-
- NATIONAL		-	-	-
1982.....1983.....1984.....1985.....
5.0.1 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE	13.25	6.25	3.5	3.5
5.1.1 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS				

5.2 METHOD OF CALCULATION

SEE ANNEX

6.0 CAN THE PROJECT BE FINANCED FROM APPROPRIATIONS ENTERED IN THE RELEVANT CHAPTER OF THE CURRENT BUDGET ?

Not necessary YES/~~XX~~

6.1 CAN THE PROJECT BE FINANCED BY TRANSFER BETWEEN CHAPTERS OF THE CURRENT BUDGET ?

Not necessary YES/~~XX~~

6.2 WILL A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET BE NECESSARY ?

~~XX~~/NO

6.3 WILL FUTURE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS BE NECESSARY ?

YES/~~XX~~

OBSERVATIONS :

ANNEX

The measures to be carried out and their financial estimates according to the proposals of the overall plan are as follows, in millions of units of account :

a) slaughter and destruction of all pigs in the province of Nuoro :

$$80,000 \times 160 = 12.8 \# 13$$

b) aid to breeders for one year in the province of Nuoro :

$$400 \times 12 \times 500 = 2.4 \# 2.5$$

c) health inspection of herds in the other provinces :

140,000 samples per year for five years

serological research : 900,000 EUA per year

virus research : 100,000 EUA per year

$$1 \times 5 = 5 \text{ million EUA}$$

d) slaughter and destruction of positive animals :

Estimate : 5,000 to 7,000 head per year for five years :

$$6,000 \times 5 \times 160 \text{ EUA} \# 5 \text{ million EUA}$$

e) parasite control (entomological research - disinfection of means of transport) :

$$1 \text{ million EUA per year for 5 years} = 5$$

f) restructuring, modernization and construction of piggeries over 2 years in Nuoro :

housing for 5,000 sows

$$5,000 \times 1,500 \text{ EUA} = 7.5 \# 8$$

g) restocking in Nuoro in 1 year after a 1 year gap :

$$5,000 \times 250 = 1.25 \# 1.5$$

h) restocking, modernization of piggeries in the other provinces (over 5 years) :

closed housing for 5,000 sows

$$8,000 \times 1,500 = 12$$

open housing for 10,000 sows

$$10,000 \times 800 = 8$$

$$\text{total} \quad 20$$

Estimated schedule of expenditure over five years :

1st year : necessity for immediate massive action in Nuoro

Slaughtering in Nuoro	13
Aid to breeders	2.5
Piggeries in Nuoro	4
Health inspection	1
Slaughter estimates	1
Parasite control	1
Piggeries other provinces	4
	<hr/>
	26.5

2nd year :

Piggeries Nuoro	4
Restocking Nuoro	1.5
Health inspection	1
Slaughter estimates	1
Parasite control	1
Piggeries other provinces	4
	<hr/>
	12.5

3rd, 4th and 5th years :

Health inspection	1
Slaughter estimates	1
Parasite control	1
Piggeries	4
	<hr/>
	7 per year

On the basis of a Community contribution of 50% of costs :

1st year	#	13.25
2nd year	#	6.25
3rd year	#	3.50
4th year	#	3.50
5th year	#	3.50
	#	<u>30m</u> <u>EUA</u>

