U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Role in Protecting American Agriculture

Romelito Lapitan, Ph.D.
Director, Agro/Bio-Terrorism Countermeasures
DHS/CPB/OFO/APTL
Email: romelito.lapitan@cbp.dhs.gov
Phone: (202) 344-2637
Organization and Mission

• In March 2003:
  o DHS was formed
  o USDA Plant Protection Quarantine inspection at POE transferred to CBP

• CBP Assets at POE
  o Officers ~ 24,900
  o Agriculture Specialists ~ 2,486
  o Agriculture Canine ~ 120
  o X-ray systems

• APTL – manages the agriculture mission at the POE, with 3 divisions:
  o Safeguarding and Risk Management
  o Agriculture Oversight and Engagement
  o Agro/Bio-Terrorism Countermeasures

❖ POE staffed by Agriculture Specialists - 186
Managing Risks at the Border

Threat exclusion approaches:

- Increased ASF situational awareness

- Compliance checks and inspection of cargo and traveler

- Regulated garbage compliance checks

- Advanced screening of high risk imports and traveler
  o Targets smuggling networks
  o Conducts link analysis on potential entry pathways of threats
Path Forward to Preventing ASF Entry

Building Canine Capacity:

• Additional 60 agriculture canine

• Management structure with additional canine teams
Before you go...Any Questions?