

Characterizing pig value chains in Vietnam: descriptive analysis from survey data

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Photo: VNUA/Duong Nam Ha

Introduction

- The traditional pig sector plays a significant role in Vietnam's economy where more than 90% of pork consumed is supplied by conventional wet markets;
- However, the traditional pig sector is under threat from animal health and food safety risks that impact both its profitability and future viability;
- Nonetheless, little research exists on defining key intervention points that could manage risks in a pro-poor, cost-effective manner.

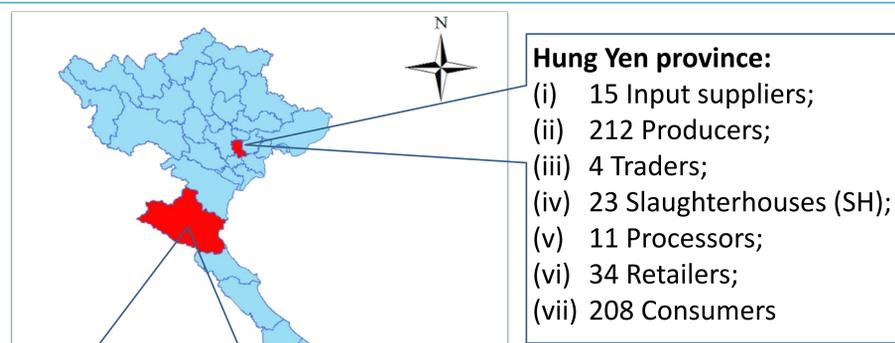
Objective

To highlight and contrast between pig value chains (VCs) in two provinces that represent different levels of economic development in Vietnam (Hung Yen and Nghe An).

Materials and methods

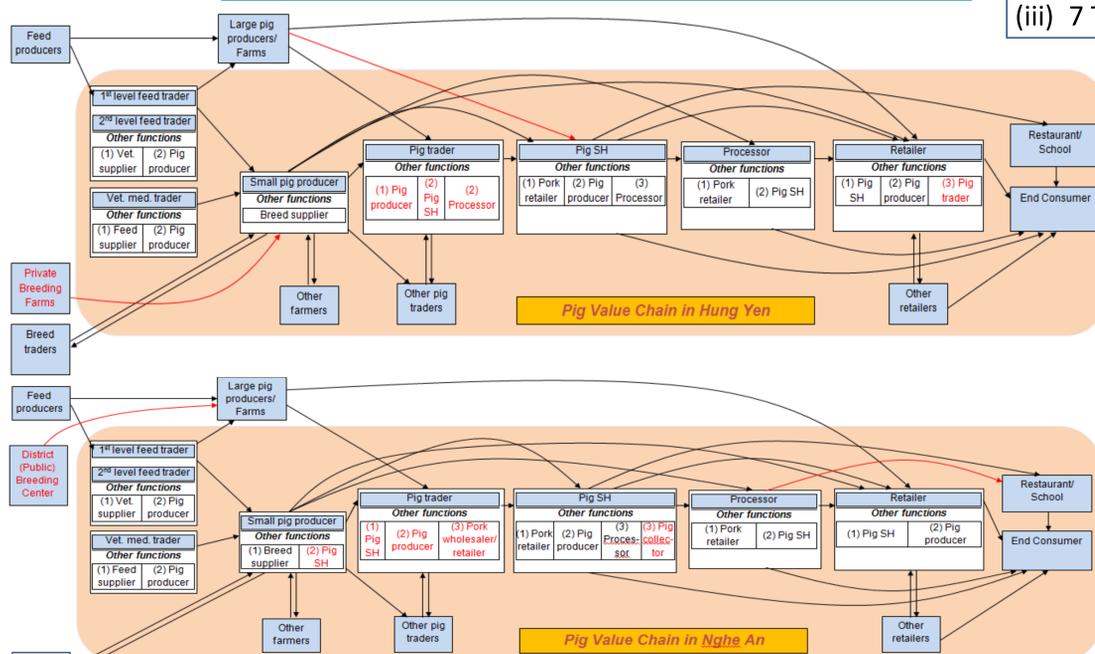
- Semi-structured questionnaires: about 400 pig producing farmers and 400 pork consumers in both provinces during July and August 2013, paying particular attention to typologies of production and consumption in rural, semi-urban, and urban zones;
- Semi-structured and In-depth interviews: 200 other intermediary value chain (VC) actors.

Figure 1: (Proportional) Sample size of each province selected for the study



Results

Figure 2: Typical pig value chains in the two provinces (scope of the study is within orange background)



Nghe An province:
 (i) 16 Input suppliers;
 (ii) 208 Producers;
 (iii) 7 Traders;
 (iv) 28 Slaughterhouses (SH);
 (v) 11 Processors;
 (vi) 40 Retailers;
 (vii) 208 Consumers

Source: The PigRISK report of PRA/FGD findings, 2013; And updated findings from field surveys, Jul & Aug 2013

COMPARISONS OF THE TWO VALUE CHAINS (VCs)

- Similar in terms of:**
 - Actor typology in which middlemen are often multi-functional and are the most powerful actors because of their better access to information and dominance in value-added activities;
 - Pig-pork flows;
 - Feeding practices of pig smallholders: collecting leftover food, locally-available feed resources;
- Different in terms of:**
 - In Figure 2:** Differences between 2 VCs are highlighted in red (*texts and arrows*); Other functions of actors are ranked by number of observations;
 - Scales of production and marketing (Hung Yen is often larger);
 - Behaviors of actors as a result of differences in production scale, knowledge, attitude and habits;
 - Actors in Hung Yen are more likely to be more market-oriented and commercialized;
 - Nghe An operates its chains more "self-sufficiently", with own-produced inputs, particularly feeds.

Research into use

- The role of middlemen may imply a potential control point for risk management in response to diseases transmitted in the short-term as well as (pro-poor) profit distribution over the longer-term
- Information from this study will provide more insightful understanding of these existing value chains and serve as the base for further economic and risk analysis (i.e. the System Dynamic (SD) analysis).



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