

The Role of Veterinary Science in International Development

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Livestock in International Development

- The *global* context of veterinary science is a world where in our current time period (2012–14), the FAO states that 805 million people are chronically undernourished.¹
- Livestock in developing countries contribute up to 80 percent of agricultural GDP
- A recent FAO report² states that 98% of farming holdings are 'family farms' (smallholdings), of which there are more than 500 million.

Throughout the developing world, livestock are means for hundreds of millions of people to escape absolute poverty.; 600 million rural poor people rely on livestock for their livelihoods.

So, what is our role?

1. FAO (2014) 'The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2014: Strengthening the enabling environment to improve food security and nutrition', Food and Agriculture Organization of The United Nations, Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4030e.pdf>
2. 2. FAOb (2014) 'Family farmers: feeding the world, caring for the earth', Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/019/mj760e/mj760e.pdf>

Veterinary Skills for Development:

1. Medicine & Surgery...



Many volunteer opportunities available

Veterinary Skills for Development:

2. Research



- The most valuable research does not stay in the laboratory and the office, it is research FOR development (R4D)
- Conversely, development interventions without a solid evidence (research) base can be ineffective or even harmful.



‘A blueprint for sustainable smallholder pig production in central Vietnam’



AusAID Collaboration for Agriculture and Rural Development



Improving Productivity

a) Improve genetics



b) Improve management



c) Improve nutrition/Use of local feeds



d) Improve veterinary services and disease control



e) Improve marketing



Improving Sustainability

- Studying traditional mixed farming systems
- Sustainable intensification



Veterinary Skills for Development:

3. LISTENING



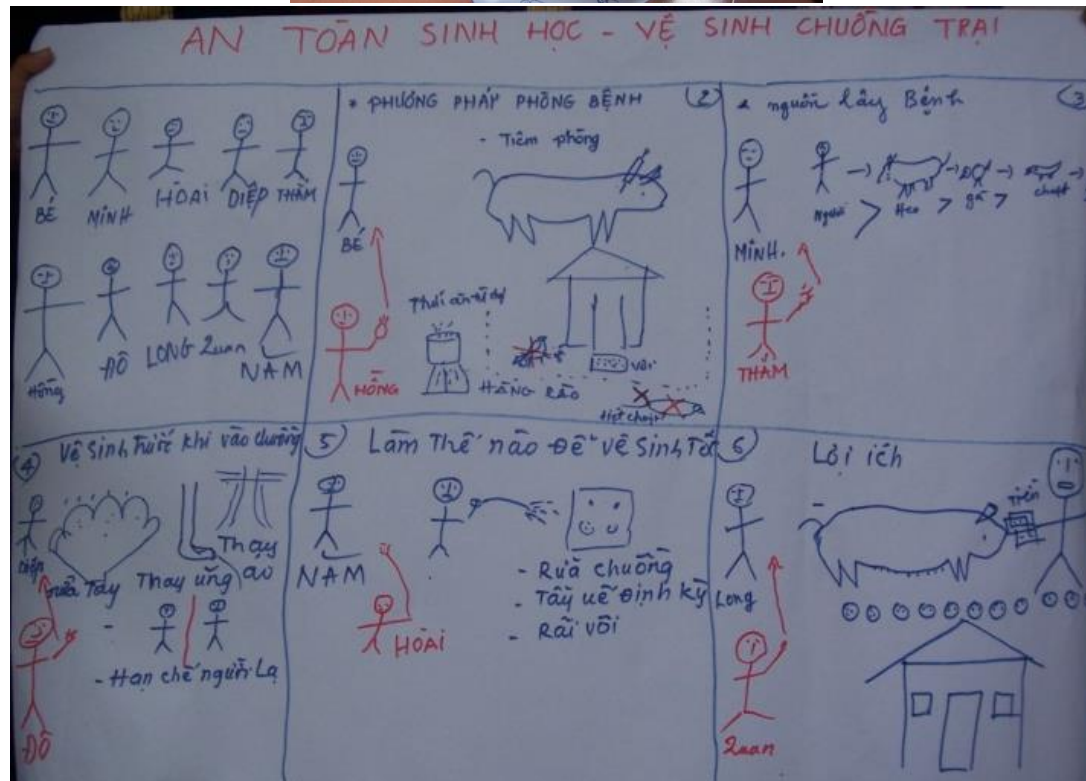
This skill, which we start to hone in our clinical years of veterinary school, is very important in research for development.

‘Turning veterinary on-farm trials into farmer-led learning through participatory video’



Farmers shared their wealth of knowledge with each other through film

Listening through Storyboarding



Working with ILRI



Veterinary Skills for Development:

4. Ethics



Cross-cultural research involves great complexity and ethical challenges.

Veterinarians must *listen* to and partner with livestock keepers, as we would partner with a client (pet owner) in a clinical setting.

Informed consent

Choosing the right communication tools and process



Informed consent



*Assessment of comprehension
& engagement*

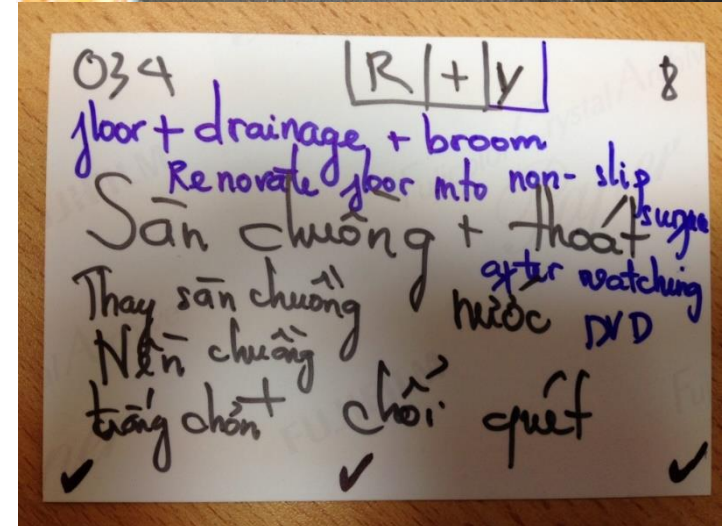
*Providing feedback & talking
through any
misunderstandings*



Evaluating Impact: Capturing complexity with photography



Listening to narratives, which describe the farmers' photos



Maximising Benefits: Participatory Photo Exhibition



Through providing a platform for farmers to learn from each other they were able to benefit from the M&E *process*, rather than just provide us with useful information

So what is the role of veterinary science in international development?



There are many...

Choose your own adventure...

Moving to this field, you will get the question: “Why don’t you want to be a **vet**?”

As a veterinarian, you
can fill a significant
role in international
development.



What you can do today

1. Dream and get creative – Read about what you care about, write, plan the career you want
2. Contact the people already doing the work you love – Listen to their stories and ask them to speak to the student cohort/SIG
3. Join these Networks/Mailing Lists/Social media:
 - Researchers in Agriculture for International Development (**RAID**) www.raidaustralia.net
 - Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (**YPARD**), international network www.ypard.net
 - Australian Volunteers for International Development (**AVID**)
www.volunteering.austraining.com.au
 - Australian Volunteers International (**AVI**)
www.australianvolunteers.com

A Maasai girl in Morogoro, Tanzania, allows the calf to suckle before she milks the cow



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