

International Livestock Research Institute

Project closing workshop

Safer indigenous pork and healthier ethnic minorities in Vietnam through better management of parasitic pig-borne diseases

26 November 2020

Hoa Binh Province, Vietnam



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Abbreviations and acronyms

A4NH	CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
BfR	Federal Institute for Risk Assessment
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CENPHER	Center of Public Health and Ecosystem Research
FIA	Fund for International Agricultural Research
FUB	Free University of Berlin
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HUPH	Hanoi University of Public Health
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
NIVR	National Institute of Veterinary Research
PPBDs	Parasitic pig-borne diseases
Sub-DAH	Sub-department of Animal Health and Livestock Production

Acknowledgements

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Workshop proceedings

36 experts working in livestock production, animal health and public health representing national institutes, government at both central and provincial level, and journalists attended the project closing workshop on 26 November 2020 in V-Hotel, Hoa Binh City. 13 were women. (Annex 1)

The objective of the workshop was to present and discuss project findings with a focus on assessment, capacity building, interventions and sustainability.

The meeting was opened by Luong Thanh Hai, director, Sub-department of Animal Health and Livestock Production of Hoa Binh Province. In his speech, he noted that a 2018 study by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)-led project found that trichinellosis and cysticercosis only occur sporadically in Hoa Binh Province and the health risks posed by these diseases to human were relatively low. However, certain risk remains due to improper hygiene practices, and low awareness of local people of these parasitic pig-borne diseases and how to prevent them. As such, he looks forward to continuing to strengthen collaboration with ILRI and its partners to scale up good interventions in the entire province.

Session 1 – Presentations on project’s achievements

Representatives from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the National Institute of Veterinary Research (NIVR), the Hanoi University of Public Health (HUPH), Free University of Berlin (FUB) and Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) presented key achievements of the project regarding to assessments, capacity development, interventions and impacts at grassroots level to local partners and received feedback from them.

See all presentations in this session from this [link](#)

Feedback and Q&A:

- Vu Quoc Hai (Health Department, Hoa Binh) agreed that the prevalence of the afore-mentioned parasitic pig-borne diseases (PPBDs) is not high in six project communes. However, there is a need to promote awareness of local people about good hygiene practices. In addition, local pig farmers have the habit of freeing pigs, and it is very difficult to change their custom of free-grazing. People also cannot distinguish the source of parasitic diseases from pigs or vegetables. Long-term interventions are needed to change behaviors of local people, and a proposed expansion of project activities is recommended.
- Pham Duc Phuc (HUPH-CENPHER) recommended integrating the project activities into other One Health projects in which students join fieldtrips to sustain the project’s interventions.
- Fred Unger (ILRI) shared that the project interventions are integrated into the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)-funded ‘Market-based approach to improving the safety of pork in Vietnam’ or SafePORK project to promote food safety risk communications at the grassroots level.
- Nguyen Tien Truong, deputy director, Sub-DAH Hoa Binh shared that inspectors from animal health agency used to strictly monitor food safety at slaughterhouses and markets, but upon animal health agency being merged with livestock production agency, in-charge-officers cannot keep the routine inspection anymore because of human resource shortage.

Session 2 – Group discussion

Participants were divided into three groups to discuss the following three questions:

- Q 1: What is the most important finding?
- Q 2: How to ensure project sustainability?
- Q 3: How to link recognized Ban pig brand with food safety in the future?



Participants discuss in groups to seek ways to sustain the project impacts (photo credit: ILRI/Chi Nguyen)

Some key discussion points:

Group 1:

- Q1: The project was working effectively with various stakeholders in conducting joint risk communications activities at the grassroots level.
- Q2: The project interventions can be sustained by promoting smallholder Ban pig value chain.
- Q3: Ban pig brand can be promoted through capacity development for local pig farmers and slaughterhouse workers regarding to good hygiene practices in controlling PPBDs. It is recommended to strengthen the monitoring at slaughterhouses and retailers. Strengthen cooperative and PPBDs free zone are proposed and should be further promoted

Group 2:

- Q1: The detection of PPBDs and the awareness of local people of these diseases is still limited.
- Q2: Capacity development for grassroots veterinarians is needed in disease detection and prevention. Capacity development can cover other zoonosis if possible.
- Q3: The project should support local people to apply VIETGAP to promote Ban pig brand, and introduce the practices of keeping pigs in barns, and promote the breeding of Ban pigs.

Group 3:

- Q1: The project has assessed the prevalence of the afore-mentioned PPBDs and proposed solutions to prevent the diseases in the community.
- Q2: The project needs to expand communication to the authorities, veterinarians and health workers in other communes and districts.
- Q3: It is necessary to strengthen the capacity of the grassroots veterinary system, the local health care system, especially communication capacity, and good practice of veterinary hygiene. Promotion of Ban pig value chain is also needed.

Other comments from participants are that it is important to develop capacity for local vets and health workers at village level who work closely with local farmers. Sustaining and promoting the registered Ban pig brand that was supported by the project is also needed. Strengthening the collaboration between animal and health sectors is crucial in controlling PPBD's.

Wrap up of partners and PI

- The project demonstrated a true one-health approach with involvement from agriculture science, animal health and public health researchers as well as local authorities.
- While ban pigs in the study area are considered safe in terms of exposure to cysticercosis, risky producer and consumer practice still occur.
- A Ban pig brand has been officially recognised by Hoa Binh authorities
- Capacity building included 17 lab technicians (including 10 ToT from different regional labs of Vietnam, RAHO) trained on diagnosis of PPBD's and 50 trained butcher or local vets on hands-on meat inspection.
- A multisectoral awareness campaign on prevention of PPBDs was implemented and reached 40% - 67% of Da Bac population across all communes. Most of them were women.
- Results of the project have been recognized at international events (e.g., SafePORK Berlin, 2019) and two papers have been submitted to peer reviewed international journals. Relevant communication materials have been widely distributed in Vietnam but also gained interest from the regional OIE in Tokyo.
- While this project will end in Dec 2021 certain activities will continue to be supported by local authorities under the umbrella of complimentary projects.
- German partners of the project (BfR and FUB) congratulated the project team for the achievement made. They highly appreciated the One Health nature of the project and support of local authorities in facilitating activities, in particular training session German partners were directly involved.

Link to news on the event:

<https://www.ilri.org/news/bmz-funded-project-share-recommendations-enhancing-pork-safety-and-adoption-local-pigs-rural>
<https://www.facebook.com/ilriinvietnam/videos/388587492381378>

Annex I: Participant list

No.	First name	Last name	Gender	Title	Institute/Company
1.	Hai	Luong Thanh	M	Director	Sub-DAH Hoa Binh
2.	Truong	Nguyen Tien	M	Deputy director	Sub-DAH Hoa Binh
3.	Tuan	Nguyen Van	M	Head, Livestock Production Division	Sub-DAH Hoa Binh
4.	Nhan	Do Van	M	Head, Legislation Division	Sub-DAH Hoa Binh
5.	Dung	Ha Van	M	Commune vet	Commune vet, Muong Chieng
6.	Quyet	Ha Van	M	Commune vet	Commune vet, Cao Son
7.	Hung	Luong Van	M	Commune vet	Commune vet, Trung Thanh
8.	Thiet	Xa Van	M	Commune vet	Commune vet, Doan Ket
9.	Huy	Luong Van	M	Commune vet	Commune vet, Tan Minh
10.	Huong	Xa Thi	F	Commune vet	Commune vet, Giap Dat
11.	Thuc	Pham Van	M	District vet	District vet, Da Bac
12.	Vinh	Bui Khac	M	Officer	District Agriculture Division, Da Bac
13.	Nam	Lo van	M	Commune health worker	Commune health worker, Muong Chieng
14.	An	Xa Van	F	Commune health worker	Commune health worker, Doan Ket
15.	Thien	Luong Huy	M	Commune health worker	Commune health worker, Trung Thanh
16.	Son	Ngo Thi	F	Commune health worker	Commune health worker, Giap Dat
17.	Phuong	Dinh Thi Bich	F	Commune health worker	Commune health worker, Tan Minh
18.	Hanh	Dinh Thi	F	Commune health worker	Commune health worker, Cao Son
19.	Chang	Ha Van	M	District health worker	District health worker, Da Bac
20.	Hai	Vu Quoc	M	Officer	Health Department, Hoa Binh Province
21.	Phuc	Pham Duc	M	Deputy Director	CENPHER, HUPH
22.	Hai	Ngo Hoang Tuan	M	Researcher	CENPHER, HUPH
23.	Phi	Nguyen Hong	M	Researcher	CENPHER, HUPH
24.	Nga	Vu Thi	F	Head, Parasitology Division	National Institute of Veterinary Research
25.	Hoan	Doan Huu	M	Researcher	National Institute of Veterinary Research
26.	Thuy	Do Thi Thu	F	Researcher	National Institute of Veterinary Research

27.	Ngoc	Duong Nhu	F	Researcher	National Institute of Veterinary Research
28.	Dung	Do Trung	M	Researcher	National Institute of Malariaology, Parasitology and Entomology
29.	Fred	Unger	M	Regional representative for Southeast Asia	ILRI
30.	Sinh	Dang Xuan	M	Researcher	ILRI
31.	Thanh	Nguyen Le	F	Officer manager	ILRI
32.	Chi	Nguyen Thi Quynh	F	Communications officer	ILRI
33.	Mai	Nguyen Thi Tuyet	F	Reporter	Hoa Binh Television
34.	Diana	Meemken	F	Researcher	FU Berlin (virtual)
35.	Maximilian	Baumann	M	Researcher	FU Berlin (virtual)
36.	Anne	Mayer-Scholl	F	Researcher	BfR (virtual)

Annex 2: Workshop agenda

Time	Activity	Person in charge
08.00-08.30	Registration	NIVR/ILRI
08.30-08.45	Opening	
	Sub-DAH Hoa Binh	Luong Thanh Hai, Sub-DAH
	NIVR and HUPH	Pham Duc Phuc, HUPH/ Vu Thi Nga, NIVR
	Project PI	Fred Unger, ILRI
	Achievement session	
8:45 - 9:10	Project objectives versus project achievements	Fred Unger, ILRI
9:10 – 9:25	Capacity building	Vu Thi Nga, NIVR
9:25 – 9:40	Community intervention	Pham Duc Phuc, HUPH
9:40 -10:00	Impact of interventions	Dang Xuan Sinh, ILRI
10.00-10:10	Q & A	All
10:10 -10:30	Morning break, group photo	All
10:30-11:00	Group session	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the most important finding? • How to ensure project sustainability? • How to link recognized Ban pig brand with food safety in the future? 	
11:00-11:15	Group feedback	
11.15-11.30	Way forward - Ban Pig chain and food safety	ILRI
	Activities links to on-going SafePORK project	
11.30-11.50	Feedback from German partners	BfR and FUB
11:50 - 12:15	Workshop closing:	Sub-DAH, HUPH NIVR, NIMPE & German partners
	Closing remarks & appreciations	
12:15 - 1:30	Lunch	