



Optimizing breeding organisation of small scale pig producers in NW Vietnam



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Problem statement

- Main incentives for pig production development focus on the Red River Delta and areas surrounding big cities.
- Smallholders in mountainous areas face various problems to keep pace with the development.

Objectives

- Identification of institutions involved in pig breeding activities in northern Vietnam (from national to regional to village level)
- Analysis of inter- and intra-institutional relations and flows between institutions at different levels
- Identification of suitable institutional settings to optimise breeding organisation of smallscale pig producers at village level

Material & Methods

Data collection	Group discussions (using guideline) 27 group discussions with smallscale pig breeders in 8 villages Son La province	Personal interviews (using guideline) 62 interviews with managers, directors, technical staff, etc. of 15 public and 18 private institutions 9 northern provinces	Desk study (secondary data) Legal documents, national programmes, reports, articles and scientific literature
Data analysis	Mainly qualitative	Mainly qualitative	Qualitative
Focus	Description and analysis of pig breeding organisation at village level A) Internal structures (primary organisation of pig breeding, farmer organisations, participation, objectives and activities) B) External factors (framework conditions, e.g. marketing, supply of breeding animals, linkages to other stakeholders)	Identification and description of institutions involved in pig breeding at different levels (national, regional, provincial) A) Historical development B) Organisational structures C) Framework conditions D) Flows of animals, information, etc. E) Linkages between institutions	Complement information obtained in group discussions and personal interviews
Outcomes	Strengths and weaknesses of pig breeding organisation at different levels, main focus on village level Well-justified recommendations for community-based pig breeding programmes in mountainous areas in NW Vietnam		

Preliminary results

1. Current pig breeding system in Vietnam

- Strong governmental influence (national and provincial policies and strategies, public research and breeding institutions), strong links between institutions
- Trend towards commercialisation and privatisation to increase efficiency and competitiveness
- Clear focus on use of imported breeds, some efforts to conserve local breeds

1.1 Institutions involved in pig breeding in northern Vietnam

- Public institutions: ministries and departments at local level, national and provincial directives, national institutes, breeding farms and companies
- Private institutions: large-scale foreign-invested companies, commercial farms, providers of AI and natural mating services, cooperatives, household farms

2. Organisation of pig breeding at village level in Son La province

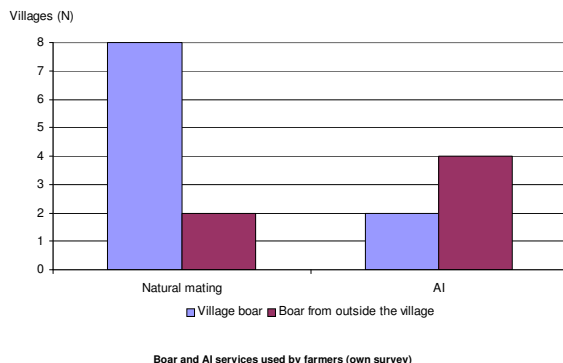
2.1 Pig breeding support services in the villages

Breeding farms

- Not any more public breeding farms or AI stations in the province
- Small number of small to medium-sized private commercial farms; however, mainly production of fatteners
- Majority of pigs still on small scale farms

Boar and AI services

- At least one boar keeper in all investigated villages offering natural mating service for sows, in 2 villages also village AI service available
- Also use of boars for natural mating (2 villages) and of private AI service providers from outside the village (half of the investigated villages)



Village groups

- Common political mass organisations in all investigated villages: no direct activities related to pig production or breeding
- New forms of farmer organisation (2 villages): study tours, access to loans, exchange of experiences, money through funds, training on new technologies
- Farmer livestock group (1 village): share experiences and information, source of breeding animals

Agricultural extension and training

- Farmers in most (6) of the villages have access to training on new technologies and breeds, either conducted by the district Agricultural Extension Station or the district Animal Health Station; however:
 - o Training courses not regular (3 villages)
 - o No practical advice and financial support to apply new technologies (2 villages)
 - o Topics not relevant or applicable to respective production system (local conditions, limited financial resources); number of participants limited, training topics differ between participating groups; training only accessible for head/members of extension club (1 village each)
- Farmers would like to have a stronger support either from the public and private area (3 villages) or only from the public area (2 villages)

2.2 Farmers attitude towards cooperatives

- Attitude towards cooperatives or collective farming structures more positive among market-oriented producers; not market-oriented producers expressed no clear opinion

Table: Perceived advantages and disadvantages of cooperatives/ collective farming

Perceived advantages	Perceived disadvantages
risk sharing, labour sharing, better access to land and loans, farmer-to-farmer learning, specialisation of farmers, lower input prices, better access to extension services, possibilities for technology transfer	lack of experiences, land, feed and labour limited, regulations on production and management, no independence in decision-making, outputs not shared according to inputs

First conclusions

Breeding organisation at national scale

- Breeding organisation largely decentralised, involving public and private institutions
- Links between different public institutions quite strong (vertical and horizontal integration)

Breeding organisation at village level

- Organisation of small scale pig breeders weak
- New forms of farmer organisations developing and largely accepted by small scale breeders
- Links to public institutions and other organisations involved in pig breeding limited to district

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