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Using photovoice as an M&E tool: Evidence of change from smallholder livestock producers' perspective in Vietnam

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Introduction

What is photovoice?

- ▶ A **participatory** method which uses photography to enhance **dialogue**.
- ▶ In *Li-chăn**: a participatory **M&E** method to collect “**stories of changes**”.
- ▶ A five-step process:
 - Step 1:** Selecting community members.
 - Step 2:** Training on using camera and story-telling.
 - Step 3:** Coaching and selecting photos & stories.
 - Step 4:** Validating with communities.
 - Step 5:** Presenting results.

*Li-chan -Livestock-led interventions towards equitable livelihoods and improved environment in the North-West Highlands of Vietnam

Photovoice in *Li-chăn*

- ▶ 20 user-friendly cameras were given to 18 farmers and 2 vets, to document evidence of change from project interventions.
- ▶ Interventions: feeds & forages, animal genetics, herd health & biosecurity, environment, improved market linkages.
- ▶ 5,000 photos and videos taken; 170 stories collected.
- ▶ 69 photos & stories selected for virtual exhibition “Livestock Development from farmers’ perspectives”.
- ▶ 30 photos & stories selected for exhibition and catalogue with the Vietnam Museum of Fine Arts.

Results

Short-term changes: changes in knowledge, attitude and skills

- ▶ Farmers (both male and female) shows changes in knowledge, attitude and skills on:
 - ▶ Improved feeding, breeds and Artificial insemination (AI), biosecurity.
 - ▶ Environmental degradation.
 - ▶ Transition from domestic use to commercial.
- ▶ Agricultural extension workers and animal health professionals improve knowledge and skills on:
 - ▶ Artificial insemination.
 - ▶ Improved feeding.
 - ▶ Biosecurity.
 - ▶ Diseases diagnostics.

Medium-term changes: adopting interventions



📷 Luong Van Dung, male, Thai ethnic

- ▶ Farmers and extension workers adopt flexible combination of interventions e.g.:
 - ▶ Improved forages, feed preservation.
 - ▶ Planting cover crop, grass contour, composting.
 - ▶ Farm management and biosecurity.
 - ▶ Artificial insemination.
- ▶ Animal health professional diagnose animal diseases correctly more frequently.

Adoption of improved forages

“Green elephant grass has been picked and used as seedlings. I could have cut it before, but I wanted to replicate this variety for other households in the village. That’s why I left the grass to mature more. The tops are fed to my cattle, while the stems are being given to my neighbours for replanting.”

Narrator: Ly A Trong, male, Hmong ethnic.



📷 Ly A Trong



📷 Ha Van Chung

Evidences of technology adoption – Artificial Insemination (AI) of cattle

“Since the project started, I have learnt about AI. With direct mating, it is difficult to transport the boars. It costs 150,000 dong (7 US dollars) for pig mating services. It takes a lot of time to choose the breeding boar for direct mating. AI only takes 10–20 minutes, is hygienic and free from infectious diseases.”

Narrator: Quàng Thị Ly, Lèo Thị Xiển Thai ethnic.



📷 Leo Thi Xien

Change in knowledge on animal nutrition and improved forage

“Soya bean waste from making tofu can be fed to pigs, it will have more lean meat. Farmers should add legumes in animal feed because it is protein rich”.

Narrator: Leo Thi Xien, female, Thai ethnic.

Conclusions

- ▶ Photovoice offers a stimulating way to engage communities and helps to overcome language barriers.
- ▶ Generate evidence for researchers and policy makers.
- ▶ Enhance capacity and confidence of ethnic minority farmers.
- ▶ Encourages adoption of promising interventions through participation in the evaluation process.

References

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Livestock Development from the Farmer's Perspective. <https://bit.ly/45JA40N>

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