



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

Livestock

Goat Production Systems and Marketing in Laos and Vietnam



Overview

Increased demand from Vietnam has driven a dramatic increase in Laos goat numbers over the last two decades. Research has shown that up to 90% of goats in surveyed regions were exported to Vietnam, and can command an average 30% premium over Vietnamese crossbred goats.

This finding identified key market and value chains for which there was a lack of detailed information. Major productivity constraints faced by the smallholder farmers supplying this market include high herd mortality ranging from 10% to 80%, disease control and inbreeding depression.

There is a need for systematic performance benchmarking, and a need to understand the role of goats in smallholder farming systems and household economics, including any household risks in changing or expanding goat production, and farmers' motivations to do so.

Given the increased demand for, and numbers of, goats in Laos, their improved production and marketing have the potential to bring significant livelihood improvements to village smallholders who produce the bulk of the nation's goats.

KEY FACTS

ACIAR Project No. LS/2017/034

Duration: July 2019 to June 2023 (4 years)

Target areas: Laos and Vietnam

Budget: A\$1,800,001

Project Leader

Professor Stephen Walkden-Brown, University of New England

Key partners

- Charles Sturt University
- National Agricultural and Forestry Research Institute of Laos
- National Animal Health Laboratory, Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Lao PDR

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Anna Okello

Objective

The overall aim of the project is to enhance income-generating opportunities for households raising goats in Laos through the development of productive, environmentally sustainable, socially acceptable and gender sensitive production systems, and accessing high-demand Vietnamese markets.

The objectives are to:

- Evaluate goat production systems in Laos to develop technical, social and economic benchmarks against which improvements can be assessed.
- Assess major constraints and identify and evaluate potential solutions.
- Reduce market risk and increase marketing opportunities through improved understanding of the factors affecting demand and pricing of goats in Laos and Vietnam, and of the associated value chains.
- Build capacity for goat production research and development in Laos, and initiate scaling out of project findings.

Expected scientific results

- Benchmarking of goat production systems in Laos.
- Analysis of goat herd ranging and mixing behaviour, population structure and probable inbreeding depression in village goat production systems.
- Improved understanding of mortality rates and disease in Lao goats.
- A demand/supply analysis and forecast for Lao goats and goat meat.
- Understanding and analysis of goat value chains between Laos and Vietnam.
- Increased understanding of the social and economic constraints, and opportunities for improved goat production systems.

Expected impact/outcomes

- Improved understanding of the role of goats in Lao farming systems, their potential to enhance farming incomes over the long term and any risks associated with this.
- Increased use of measurement, recording and assessment against benchmarks as a tool for farmers and advisors to improve productivity and profitability of goat production systems.
- Clarification of the impacts of inbreeding, gastrointestinal nematode infection and other animal health problems on productivity.
- Understanding of Lao domestic and export goat market chains and their constraints, risks and opportunities.
- Knowledge and understanding of the factors influencing consumer preferences for goats in Vietnam, particularly those that underpin the premium for Lao goat, and use of compiled market information to increase profitability, manage risk and shape future planning.
- Establishment of a National Learning Alliance in Laos to continue the improvement and application of knowledge and skills on goat production and marketing.
- Improved knowledge and application of gender sensitive approaches by project participants.

