

Objective

The project aims to simultaneously improve human health and livestock productivity through the reduced transmission of pork tapeworm between livestock and smallholder farmers.

The objectives are to:

- Develop criteria for identifying high-risk villages for food borne parasitic disease involving production animals in northern Laos.
- Implement and evaluate appropriate joint human and animal interventions to reduce disease transmission between livestock and smallholder farmer communities.
- Assess the cost-effectiveness of a joint human-animal approach to the control of food borne parasitic disease.
- Validate current diagnostic techniques for targeting food borne parasitic disease in low-and middle-income countries.

Expected scientific results

- Develop proven methods to identify high-risk hotspots of food borne parasitic diseases.
- Demonstrate the benefits of a One Health approach, including feasibility, health benefits and economic viability.
- Develop diagnostic techniques to detect animal zoonoses and foodborne parasites that are affordable, accessible and accurate in low-and middle-income country settings.

Expected impact/outcomes

- Decrease prevalence of foodborne parasitic disease and soil transmitted helminths in communities involved in the study.
- Increase livestock productivity in project communities due to improved animal health.
- Increase household income in project communities due to improved livestock production.
- Improve knowledge and practices relating to foodborne parasitic disease transmission in project communities, mitigating future transmission.
- Expand the database to enable evidence-based government policy updates relating to neglected tropical diseases, biosecurity and disease surveillance.
- Improve partnerships and communication with key stakeholders.

