



Livestock

Collaboration on One Health Economic Research for Systems

Overview

There is an urgent need for One Health approaches in the Mekong region, as demonstrated by previous outbreaks of avian influenzas that have spread to human populations.

The World Organisation for Animal Health and the World Health Organisation have, individually, identified measures that need to be in place to protect human and animal populations from these risks, but have not addressed how to jointly implement those measures under One Health.

One Health strategies consider environmental health, animal health and human health together to achieve greater benefits than could be achieved in one of those sectors alone. This project focusses on the target countries' veterinary service markets, including the characteristics of the relevant labour markets, the impacts of alternative financing mechanisms and the nature and consequences of the public-private mix.

The goal is to understand how veterinary service markets might be better managed and governed by agencies interested in human health, in cooperation with agencies interested in agriculture and animal health. There will be a particular focus on the balance between incentive management and command and control approaches, and on capacity building in both these approaches.



KEY FACTS

ACIAR Project No. LS/2019/118

Duration: January 2020 to June 2022 (2.5 years)

Target areas: Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam

Budget: A\$1,635,166

Project Leader

Professor Barbara McPake, Nossal Institute for Global Health

Key partners

- Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture
- Cambodia National Institute for Public Health

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Anna Okello

Objective

The project's broader aim is an analysis of veterinary service markets and opportunities for incentive-based regulation (in Cambodia), how this can support more effective collaboration between animal and human health agencies to advance One Health in Cambodia, and how the findings are relevant in Laos and Vietnam.

The objectives are to:

- Analyse the supply of veterinary services including the public-private mix, the roles played by different categories of provider and the extent to which the key functions needed for One Health are covered in Cambodia.
- Analyse the public and private demand for veterinary services, including their drivers and how they are changing, in Cambodia.
- Understand the wide range of factors driving behaviours in the veterinary services market, including social and cultural factors and the role played by government agencies in regulating the market.
- Facilitate collaboration between human and animal health sectors based specifically on the needs and the preparedness of each of the three Mekong countries.

Expected scientific results

- Creation of a new framework for reform in the animal health sector, which incorporates principles from human health systems approaches.
- Identification of One Health regulation requirements, applicable to veterinary practitioners, animal producers and governments, and for use in further research.
- Further collection of evidence on cross-border zoonotic disease control using consistent and common benchmarks in the animal and human health sectors between the Mekong countries.
- Analysis of the delivery of veterinary services in the Mekong region, with consideration of how a strengthened mixed public-private market for veterinary services could advance One Health goals.

Expected impact/outcomes

- Establishment of a knowledge base for policy reform.
- Development of a research approach and methodology that applies the lessons from decades of strengthening human health systems to the animal health sector.
- Stronger partnerships between ministries of health and agriculture and other One Health partners in each country, with greater capacity to undertake collaborative policy-based research and policy reform.
- A common understanding of veterinary markets and much stronger coordination between health and agricultural policies and practices between the Mekong countries, where economic integration and increased cross-border trade and movement are evident.
- Increased knowledge, experience and skills of both human-health and animal-health researchers in the Mekong countries.
- Increased understanding, knowledge, capacity and skills of government officials in the animal-health and human-health sectors.
- Established working relationships between human and animal health ministries as a foundation to achieve One Health goals.
- Lower costs and better outcomes in animal production enterprises that benefit from improved delivery of veterinary services.
- Improved human health (and lower costs of health care) from control of zoonotic diseases.

