



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# LAO PDR

Improving poultry health and production in Luang Prabang



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## Improving poultry health and management in three high-risk villages in Luang Prabang using a community-based approach

The demand for poultry and poultry products is increasing in Luang Prabang and surrounding provinces. To meet this demand, the province imports poultry from neighboring countries. This poses risks to the vulnerable local poultry population with threat of introduction of transboundary animal diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Luang Prabang reported HPAI outbreaks in the past and the risk of reintroduction is always high. To reduce the risk of introduction of HPAI, the Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF), Lao PDR and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) implemented the project on 'evidence-based risk management along the livestock production and market chain.' Related activities were implemented in three high-risk villages of Luang Prabang with support from the United States Agency for International Development and the Australian Government. A community-based approach was used to improve poultry health and management by organizing farmer groups in each village. The focus is on developing a sustainable business enterprise by raising a niche breed of poultry. This is foreseen to meet the needs of local poultry farmers and market demand.

*"In order to effectively improve the poultry health and management for farmers, we have to look into the market chain as a whole,"* said Dr. Wantanee Kalpravidh, Regional Manager of the FAO Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) in Asia. If the project initiated in the selected villages succeeds, it is foreseen that it will subsequently strengthen roles and functions of community members in improving poultry flock health management practices, thereby building their capacity to deal with risks in the poultry value chain.



## Establishment of the Poultry Health Centre

FAO and national partners collaborated with the National Agriculture and Forestry College (NAFC) in Luang Prabang to establish a Poultry Health Centre (PHC) based on their campus. The PHC is the technical support center to train and provide practical hands-on training for farmers. Farmers Groups have been set up in the three villages where poultry flock health is actively managed through community participation.



## Technical Exchange in Sakon Nakhon, Thailand

A technical exchange was arranged with the Puparn Royal Development Study Centre in Northeast Thailand. The aim was for farmers to learn good practices on poultry health and management. Main topic during the technical exchange was community poultry health management. This allowed participating farmers and Lao PDR authorities to share experiences and lessons in disease risk reduction.

## Community based enterprise: Luang Prabang Native Chicken

The farmer groups, technically guided by the PHC, are now developing a community-based enterprise to improve the production of a niche breed of native chicken, which they will call as “Luang Prabang native chicken.” They will raise organic chickens without antibiotics but treated with medicinal herbs. The producing flocks are expected to have improved growth rate and taste compared to traditional native chickens.

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.fao.org/laos/en/> Chintana Chanthavisouk, Team Leader

The chickens will be marketed as “Happy chicks, healthy chicks.”



## Role of women along Poultry Value Chain in Luang Prabang: key findings and recommendations

Traditionally, chicken and ducks are raised in the backyard for home consumption with the excess sold for cash. Backyard production is low input and pure local breeds are normally raised. They are mainly fed crops, rarely vaccinated and administered a variety of drugs when needed.

Women play a major role in this traditional small-scale value chain, from farmers to traders, retailers, and input suppliers.



The project aims to strengthen women’s role in risk reduction. By engaging Lao Women’s Union (LWU), select farmers will attend trainings conducted by the female development officer of NAFC. Training topics will include the potential of cross breeds, hatching practices, and general management subjects. Additionally, local female input suppliers will be trained on feeding, vaccination and disease control so they can assist in informing their customers.

The aim is to create a vertical integration among farmers, input suppliers, traders and retail vendors, most of whom are women, to work on disease prevention.

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