



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Livestock



LIVESTOCK CRP - VIETNAM SECOND PLANNING MEETING, 27-30 May, 2019

Venue CIAT office, Hanoi

Participants

Participants for field trip and meeting: Alice Njehu (ILRI-PMU), An Notenbaert (CIAT-L&E), Helen Altshul (ILRI-PMU), Horacio Gonda (SLU-F&F), Hu Suk Lee (ILRI-Livestock Health), Isabelle Baltenweck (ILRI-LLAFS), Jane Poole (ILRI-M&E), Johanna Lindahl (ILRI-A4NH), Karen Marshall (ILRI-Livestock Genetics), Michael Peters (CIAT-F&F), Nguyen Hung (ILRI-Vietnam team), Nguyen Thinh (ILRI-Vietnam team), Pham Van Dung (CIAT-Vietnam team), and Sabine Douxchamps (CIAT-Vietnam team).

Participants for field trip: Le Thi Thanh Huyen (NIAS) and Bui Nghia Vuong (NIVR)

Facilitator: Michael Victor (ILRI)

Meeting objectives

- To visit smallholder farmers in the project site, and get an overview of constraints and opportunities
- To define the target beneficiaries
- To agree on the integrated package of interventions
- To define outcomes
- To outline the ToC: what we will do, with whom, what will change, indicators
- To agree on actions and roles, activity sheets and POWB

DAY 1 and 2

Visit to contrasting farms of Moc Chau and Mai Son districts, Son La Province.



1. BACKGROUND

Presentation by Sabine, summarizing the outcomes of the previous two meetings (Nairobi March 2019 and Hanoi April 2019), the site selection and the stocktaking study of Tassilo.

- Overall aim of the priority country program: translate our livestock research into integrated transformative pilot interventions (Tom). For Vietnam: at least reach the proof of concept stage.
- Project aim, as discussed in April: **to improve livelihoods and diets/nutrition of ethnic communities in Northwest through sustainable livestock solutions.**
- Systems approach: role of various species (indigenous pigs, beef, dairy, buffalo, poultry, small ruminants) in supporting livelihoods, both through backyard systems and value chain development
- Integrated package of intervention as much as possible: some components will be integrated, some will be semi-independent as part of an integrated approach
- Timeline: end in Dec 2021, with end of CRP Livestock (continuation depending on development at CGIAR)
- Sites selected: Moc Chau and Mai Son districts in Son La province

2. FEEDBACK FROM THE FIELD TRIP

Each participant was asked to write his/her opinion on (1) sites selected, (2) opportunities and issues for the Livestock CRP in the two sites, (3) target beneficiaries and (4) potential partners.

The results are:

(1) Doubts aroused regarding sites suitability, as livestock seemed to be not the major agricultural activity, the districts were not very different, and the smallholders met seemed to have limited opportunities in agriculture. The outcome of the discussion is summarized in the next section.

(2) Many different topics were proposed by the participants:

Feed and crops: - utilize available land folder, land conservation to increase production

- feed competition between animal & human
- need to keep in mind sustainability, combined with other agricultural crops
 - opportunities from rice straw to improve feed quality, decrease in (erosion, environmental pollution, land use), increase in business opportunities
- grow grass under fruit trees to solve the problem of land shortage for forages
- can we have a farming system approach without addressing crop improvement?

Livestock:

- limited opportunities for livestock in these districts
- biodiversity reduction (from animal/health point of view) needs to be improved
- ASF outbreak
- winter mortality

System/Land:

- erosion, land degradation, deforestation: land use change trends, drivers, future trajectory, nutrient cycle (e.g. water pollution?), SLM practices

Policies/social:

- agricultural subsidies, build on social capital (traditional cattle systems), farmer's capacity building
- getting youths back to livestock in Son La

(3) Poor and farmers from ethnic minorities, but not only the poorest, also farmers with available land and enough capital to take up new technologies.

(4) NIAS, NIVR, DARD Son La (district, commune and provincial level), VNUA, IPSARD... Importance of strong implementing partners, with a lot of experience on-the-ground. Need for a partnership mapping exercise.

3. SITE SELECTION

Son La province has been selected based on a number of criteria:

- previous work: data available, partners
- Government priority
- food system perspective at low cost: A4NH linkages
- mountainous area
- ethnic minorities
- importance of livestock (maps)
- poverty
- accessibility
- interest of donors
- potential for scaling outside

However, the criteria and their assumptions were not clear for the group, and this led to an intense discussion. Still **we agreed to target Son La province**, provided the selection process for the province is well documented. For the districts: Moc Chau and Mai Son were selected end of April by Sabine, Hung and Jane, following the comparison of selected indicators for Son La province, taking also into consideration some of the criteria above (accessibility etc.). Following the site visit, we agreed that the district choice might be revisited, as (i) the field visit didn't clearly show the importance of livestock in these 2 districts and (ii) it would be more convenient – considering resources and focus - to work with one district only, if it offers all the targeted farming systems (see below), i.e. if heterogeneity is present.

The criteria for district selection were identified as follow:

- Level of livestock importance to livelihoods (for incentive creation) [high=more favourable site]
- Level of partnership opportunities – existing and new, both implementing and research partners [high=more favourable site]
- Political good-will / buy-in from the government [high=more favourable site]
- Community willingness to participate [high=more favourable site]
- Level of poverty [high=more favourable site]
- % population that are ethnic minorities [high=more favourable site]
- Heterogeneity of systems / farm-types [high=more favourable site] Discussion on whether we pre-define and include as a criteria, or whether we identify districts and then from that identify the farm-types
- Year-round accessibility is a must have criteria

It is worth noting that the choice of Vietnam and Son La province for this work was discussed at length, but for the sake of making progress, we settled on Son La province as many discussions had already taken place in previous meetings.

4. VISION

The participants had the opportunity to share their vision for the project.

- Hung: Son La out of poverty via beef cattle (pigs are linked to maize and erosion, beef is niche market, chicken has feed and disease issues)
- Sabine: landscape approach, with different farm types (farm size, landscape, market access etc.) according to their landscape position, as seen in partner's reports, and customized packages for each, as well as transition studies (how these farming system evolve - cope, adapt, transform).

For example:

- farms on intermediate gradient, larger farm sizes → cube it (feed post-harvest storage);
- farms on flatter land of small size → minimum package on health / feed;
- farms on flatter land that are more market oriented → forage intercropping with trees
- Isabelle: research focus, providing the opportunities for youth to re-engage in livestock; via what drives change in practices (a) entry-point of livelihoods, (b) entry-point of environment
- An: Landscape approach with environmental entry-point; sustainable use of landscapes through optimizing the role of productive livestock: Look at land-use change trends etc. policy context → participatory land use mapping → intervention design. The GHG aspects could be first addressed with CLEANED in 2020, and if funding allows and interesting opportunities emerge, we could make use of the Gasmot for more details in 2021.

We agreed to adopt a landscape/sustainable intensification approach, considering all of the sustainability dimensions, including social, economic, environmental, political etc., using a farm typology. Landscape position is one option for the criteria but this would need to be assessed at a later stage.

There were different understanding of what means a landscape approach. We agree that we will work at farm level, but including variables from landscape level (landscape position, slope, etc.), i.e. for example no watershed modelling or complex multistakeholder land use plans. Strictly speaking, landscape approach means looking at a geographically delineated area and optimizing resources in that landscape, taking into account the perspectives of all the people in that area. What can be done in our case at landscape level is multistakeholder meetings, policies, etc. Also, farm vs. communal level has to be clarified.

Note: sustainable system intensification for us means not only through livestock, but can also include consideration of labour issues, natural resources use, manure for coffee etc. – however livestock has to be an important part of the system.

The proposal will need to include a section on terminology definition.

5. PROBLEM TREE AND RELATED OUTCOMES

The next exercise was the problem tree: what issues are we trying to solve, how, and what in consequence will be the outcomes of our work? Results are shown in the figures 1 and 2 below.

In doing this, **we agreed that, although we are planning a 2.5 years project, we must see the long term, beyond the end of the CRP.**

Indicators of success for this were proposed, but details will be discussed at a later stage.

- Karen: Movement towards sustainable intensification in our target sites (monitoring the SI domains)
- Isabelle: As above with learning lessons that can be replicated / scaled-out in neighboring countries
- An: We can put research questions around ToC assumptions

Use of sustainable intensification domains (possibly borrowing from Africa Rising project) is also an option.

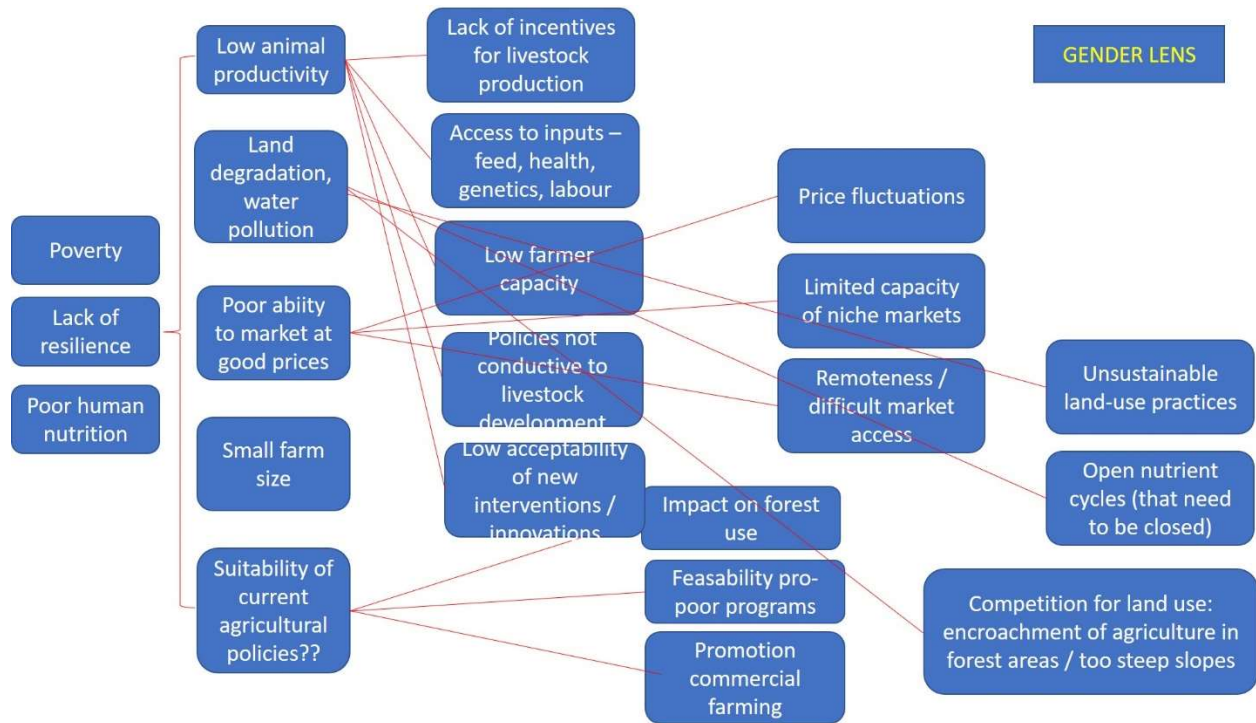


Figure 1. Problem tree

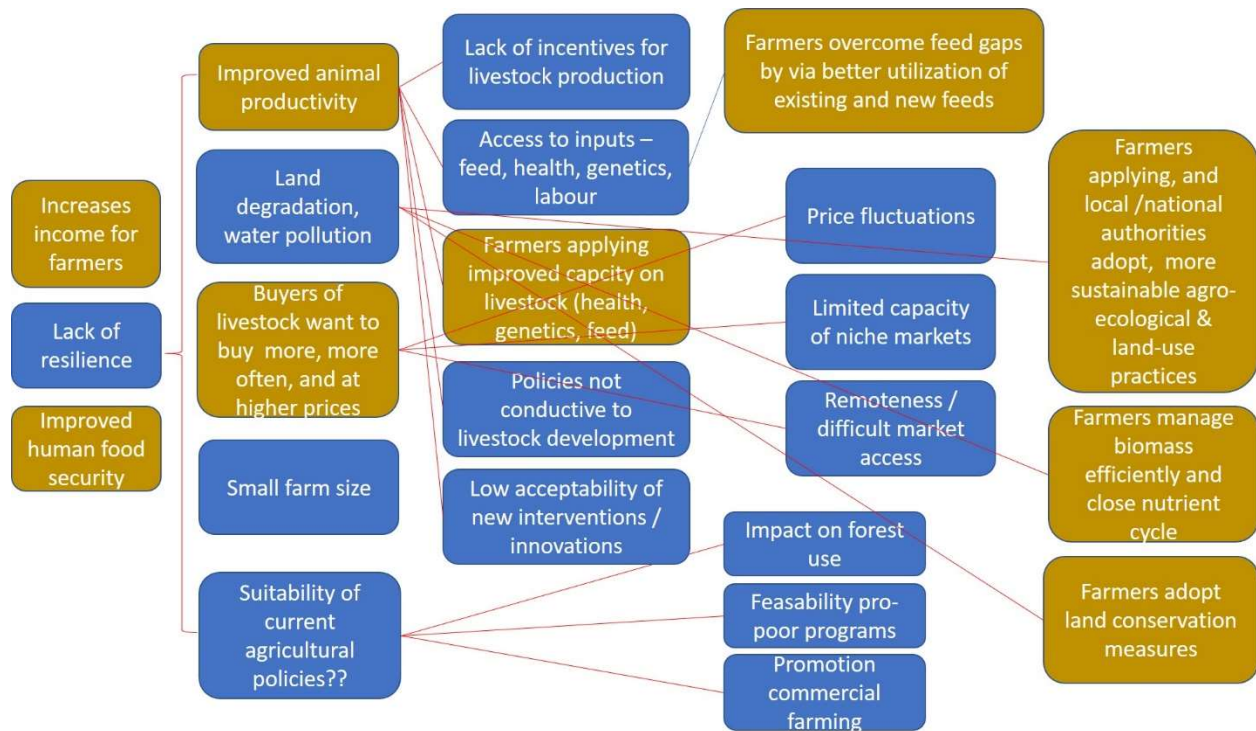


Figure 2. Outcomes

6. RESEARCH QUESTION AND OBJECTIVE

Several ideas were proposed:

→ **Research question: What is the role of livestock to address sustainable intensification challenges in (three) types of farming system in uplands of Vietnam?**

→ Research question 2: For which socio-economic group of farmers can we make livestock sustainably beneficial (profit, other benefits, food security, nutritional, gender and social equity, resilience ... or the sustainable intensification indicators)

→ **Overall Objective: To identify, test and evaluate appropriate livestock (related) interventions to address sustainable intensification challenges in the uplands of NW Vietnam**

7. WHAT HAVE WE AGREED ON TODAY

The participants agreed generally on the following, by majority:

- Site: Son La province. Districts to be discussed at a later stage (noted that Mai Son has all the contrasting farm-types (high-lands, middle-lands, low-lands))
- Systems approach
- Need to move fast
- Context-specific packages
- Landscape/SI approach

Bold sections in this document give more details on each of this.

DAY 4

The aim of the day was to agree on the POWB and next steps. This included clarifications on terminology, methods, and approaches. We will implement in two phases (1) Characterization, to end 2019; (2) pilot testing and monitoring/evaluation. This means that interventions will be defined only at the end of 2019: we need to have this clear by November in order to submit the POWB for 2020. This is considered in the plan of activities below. As Tom allows funds carry-over from 2019 to 2020, we should be fine to start the activities before funds disbursements (as budget to CRP partners need to go via PPAs, i.e. not available before March-April 2020). Note that although funds for 2019 were in addition to the flagship budgets (100'000 USD/flagship), the funds for 2020 must be included in each flagship budget, for similar amount.

1. GENERAL METHODOLOGY

The aim of the characterization will be to focus on what are the main constraints to SI, using rapid assessments, to guide the package of interventions. The baseline at household level will be done with RHoMIS, and will include the outcome indicators. In the early phase, we will have mostly farm level indicators, with some indicators at communal level e.g. rice paddies (don't have barriers between individual plots). We must think in simple landscape indicators to add. The ToC will be developed after the rapid assessments.

The knowledge gaps that the rapid assessments will focus on are:

- Urgent: who are the actors, stakeholders, partners, as well as policy context for SI

- Animal health: minimum number of animals to allow epidemiological study, biosecurity and AMR issues, farm/health management
 - Genetics: general knowledge gap, needs PRAs / key informant interview
 - Feeds and Forages: Feed resources, what is available, feed management knowledge, labour calendars, feed calendars / FEAST, forest policies
 - Environment: typologies, land-use change trends and drivers in the area, water pollution
 - LLAFS: System description, markets, gender, institutions, nutrition / food security
- Some of this can be already found in Tassilo's report and related literature, on our SharePoint.

2. BASELINE, FARM TYPES, AND SAMPLING APPROACH

The options proposed by the participants differed mainly in the knowledge base chosen to support the sampling of farmers for the interventions: either through literature, key informants and FGDs, and/or through statistical analysis of a baseline survey. This affected the timeline, the representativeness, and the number of farmers included in the baseline. We agreed to use the RHoMIS tool in all options.

Option A

2019:

- Assessment and identification of farmer types and interventions: based on literature, key informant interviews and FDGs. No quantitative household survey at this stage.

2020:

- Pre-identifying farmers / beneficiaries: based on community discussions (different households can select different intervention types)
- RHoMIS on project households + other tools at other levels as baseline
- Start intervention and monitoring and evaluation

Option B

2019:

- RHoMIS on large number of households, e.g. 1000 households for 2 purposes: baseline (before starting the intervention) and characterization
- Simultaneous assessment and identification of interventions: based on literature and key informant interviews
- Farm types defined based on RHoMIS
- Pre-identified farmers / beneficiaries e.g. 200 selected from RHoMIS

2020:

- Start intervention and monitoring and evaluation

Option C

2019:

- Assessment and identification of interventions: based on literature and key informant interviews
- RHoMIS population baseline (beneficiaries may not be part of the survey)

2020:

- Pre-identifying farmers / beneficiaries - based on community discussions (different households can select different intervention types)
- NOTE HERE THAT WE HAVE BENEFICIARIES WITHOUT BASELINE DATA

- BAD EXPERIENCE WITH THIS IN TANZANIA WHERE BASELINE HAD TO BE DUPLICATED

Option D

2019:

- Assessment and identification of interventions: based on literature and key informant interviews
- RHoMIS population baseline (beneficiaries may not be part of the survey)

2020:

- Pre-identifying farmers / beneficiaries: based on community discussions (different households can select different intervention types)
- RHoMIS on beneficiaries that were not in baseline, to complement data collected in 2019.

When discussing the advantages of all options, key points were considered:

- The necessity to start implementing as soon as possible in 2020: farmers / beneficiaries should be pre-identified in 2019

- RHoMIS is a strong tool for identification of farmer typologies. However, other surveys and work are available, that also suggest already a typology for farmers of Son La province, among others from Humidtropics (although from 2015 and few HH per districts, with only 200 for the whole province) and CIRAD work.

- permits are needed for foreigners every-time we visit households, and costs are higher for small multiple surveys than for single big survey: favors one survey round.

- There was limited discussion on whether appropriate counterfactuals could be identified. We would like to include this (e.g. sites, households or involve comparison analysis of different combinations of interventions) to ensure the design is appropriate to an impact assessment approach (and for utilization of LLAFS protocol on evaluation of innovations). Jane explained that as discussed in the cross-country meeting, due to the short length of the program and potential challenges with identifying counterfactuals the projects will also use evidence generated from Contribution Analysis of our Theories of Change to evaluate and provide learning to the project. I.e. we've covering our bases in terms of ensuring we have evidence on the performance of the project, and emphasizing the learning throughout the project.

The participants preferences went to option A or 'A and B'. Sabine proposed a compromise, as below:

Option E

2019

- Key informant interview, FGDs, literature review → intervention selection
- Look at Humid Tropics data, CIRAD and others → pre-select farm types
- RHoMIS on farmers from communes that are thought to represent these farm types (community discussions), on say 200+ farmers, aim is to finish before Tet (Vietnamese New Year end of January) as baseline data
- Farmer / beneficiary selection from RHoMIS

2020

- Start intervention and monitoring and evaluation

3. TEAM

The core team agreed on in the April workshop was confirmed (see table below). Sabine insisted that the in-country focal points for each flagship must be able to represent the whole flagship interests, and not only their own research. For Genetics, as there is nobody in-country, Karen proposed to contract Huyen from NIAS, provided we can find a formal agreement.

	Vietnam core team	Focal point for supporting work in Vietnam
Flagships		
Livestock Genetics	Karen (interim)	Karen
Livestock Health	Hu Suk	Barbara W
Feeds & Forages	Sabine (interim)	Michael P, Horacio, Alan
Livestock & the Environment	Sabine	An
LLAFS	Karl	Isabelle
X-Cutting		
Gender	Nicoline (interim)	Nicoline
Capdev		Iddo Dror
Youth	Nicoline (interim)	Nicoline
Agri-business	Karl	
M&E		Nils, Jane, Caroline
A4NH	Fred, Tuyen	
Context, partnerships	Hung	

In addition, the team agreed that **we need at least one full time Vietnamese staff based in Son La for field coordination**. There is still a consideration if one person could cover the integrated work across flagships.

4. POWB 2019

Output / deliverable	Activities	When	Who	Comments
Initial proposal development	First draft proposal	End of June	Sabine to lead	
Budgeting for 2019	Each flagship to develop an activity sheet	End of June	Sabine for general budget; flagship leaders	Sabine to do budget for generic activities and then these are divided among flagships
District selection	Compile and review data (using Huyen as a key informant), report; decision making	End of June for draft report; 1 week after that for other to give feedback and final agreement	Thinh for data compiling and review; Sabine, Jane and Hung for initial site selection	
Intervention assessments	Flagships to identify assessment needs;	June for needs;	Flagships to identify needs;	

	decision on how to organize (key informant interview; literature review; focus group interview) and implementation	end of September for completed assessments	Sabine to co-ordinate; Sabine, Dzung, Hung Huyen for Genetics	
Commune selection	Criteria developed / agreed upon, as well as number of communes; communes selected	End of July; September		
Develop typology and classification of HHs	Review CIRAD/Huyen typology to fit to our needs; Review of HT database if needed	End of August	Sabine / Nils / Thinh / Jane	CIRAD/Huyen typology relevant to most districts
Community sensitization and beneficiary identification		October		
Partnership exercise	Carry out mapping exercise; follow-up discussions with partners, including implementing partners; partner recruitment. Firstly at district and provincial level; later at commune level	End of October	Hung – lead Support from Helen - Dzung – Huyen – Tuyen (A4NH)	
Policy review	Focus on any policies impacting on our districts (whether at provincial or country level) and their level of implementation; Review of previous work	End of October	Dzung – lead IPSARD Include flagship leads	
RHoMIS Survey	Decision on whether to add on modules or not; Get IREC approval; identify and contract out implementing partners; sampling plan; survey implementation	Survey implementation mid Nov - January		Aim to complete before Tet
Identification intervention packages	Meeting with stakeholders	Week 1 of November		
Identification of POWB 2020 activities and budget related	From same exercise as above	November 2019	Flagship leads, with Sabine	

5. TIMELINE

	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Comments
Proposal development	X									
2019 budget	X									
District selection	X	X								Report, week 1
Develop farm types (typologies)			X							
Commune selection	X			X						Criteria
Partnership exercise					X					
Partnership review					X					
Intervention assessments					X					
Community sensitization & identification of target population for RHoMIS					X					

Identification intervention packages; POWB 2020							X				workshop week 1 POWB 2020 week 4
RHoMIS survey							X	X	X		Mid Nov -Before Tet
Beneficiary selection									X?		

X=end of the month, unless stated differently in comments.

6. FOLLOW UPS

- Minutes of meeting – Dzung and Sabine to make synthesis and uploaded to sharepoints (by early June)
- Documentation of site selection (Hung-Sabine-Jane) including choice of province
- Develop draft of proposal and hold skype meeting or get comments on sharepoints (mid-June)
- Develop TOR for local support, based in Son La → proceed to recruitment as fast as possible

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is planned for **November 5-7 2019 in Hanoi**. During this meeting, we will reach agreement on the intervention packages, prepare the activity plans for 2020-2021 and work on the ToC. Project partners and relevant stakeholders will be invited.