

Final summary report of SUSPER (Sustainable Development of Peri-Urban Agriculture in South-East Asia)

Rapport final de SUSPER

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SUSPER

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1.3 Peri-urban Livestock Production Around Hanoi, Vietnam: Pork Production Around Hanoi City: Constraints and Opportunities

Author(s): Vincent Porphyre, Trần Long, Ta Bich Duyen, Hélène Beaujouan

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To characterise pork production around Hanoi, a survey was conducted on 267 households located in Soc Son, Thanh Tri and Gia Lam districts.

Pork production is rather small-scale (one sow, with the sale of 5-10 piglets every two months), although some larger farms (10 to 50 sows) are observed in Dong My and Van Duc communes where authorities promote lean pig production.

Breeding pigs is one way to improve a poor farmer's life. Generally, farmers have a college education, are 35-45 years of age and have 17 years of experience in pig breeding. All admit that they did not choose this livelihood but they did not have a choice. Both husband and wife work the farm.

Ninety-five percent never received any training in pig breeding. They know that workshops are organised from time to time in their commune, however, they have never been invited to participate. They report that they read literature relating to the subject and apply the advice given. They are very interested in caring for and rearing piglets, breeding techniques, reproduction, feeding and animal treatment/nursing. Farmers say that they are devoting more attention to the quality of their products to adapt to market demands. Communes with a service cooperative get the administrative attention of the district or province. In these areas, farmers have more training than in areas that lack commune level associations. Farmers have expressed their wish to get more training.

The lack of funds is a major constraint that slows down the development of their livelihood. Most farmers cannot extend their production scale, improve their buildings or invest in new breeds for better quality. Only 10% of them can afford to do so. And 50% of farmers are in a position to borrow money from State organisations. These loans have interest rates of 0.5%- 0.9% per annum. However, the amount of the loan is too small (\$66- \$130) and for too short a period (12 months). With these limitations, most consider the money irrelevant and do not risk a loan.

Market information is found at the market or in interchanges with neighbours. All farmers sell their animals to slaughterhouses after direct negotiation. Some use balance scales, others use "clock scales" (more precise). According to the survey, prices around Hanoi do not vary much, except around Chinese New Year. Only a few communes produce for export, but the instability of the market does not encourage the producers.

Some constraints that will need to be overcome include selection of good quality piglets that will adapt to local conditions, technical advice, use and promotion of natural supplies, vaccination and control of epidemics and loans at reasonable interest rates in order to improve breeding conditions and, finally, access to supplies and equipment. Building new structures remains difficult; nevertheless, the structures are extremely important. Another constraint of importance is specific training in breeding techniques.

- Note: preliminary to the survey, a report was done on the impact of urbanisation on the status of animal husbandry around Hanoi, mostly based on secondary data and informants in the selected districts and communes. See Hélène Beaujouan, "L'impact de l'urbanisation croissante sur l'élevage autour de Hanoi, Vietnam", rapport de stage, Université de Montpellier 2, 52 p., <http://www.avrdc.org/susper->