



IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION BY REDUCING THE RISK OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

Given the similarity of the climatic and socio-economic conditions among its countries, the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) is highly susceptible to the emergence and spread of transboundary animal diseases (TADs). The movement of animals linked to cross-border trade has long been considered a major factor in disease transmission. It is therefore imperative to adopt safer trade practices in order to mitigate the risks posed by TADs and safeguard livelihoods in the region. For a number of years, FAO has provided support for dialogue among the countries concerned to minimize the risks of TADs. Annual multilateral coordination meetings have been organized since 2014 to explore areas of collaboration and to implement joint projects and activities. These meetings resulted in the formulation of the present project, which was the first South-South Cooperation (SSC) project to focus on controlling diseases in livestock at the regional level.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project was designed to contributing to the improvement of livelihoods, food and nutrition security in Cambodia, China, Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar¹ and to promote trade within the region by facilitating bilateral and multilateral and building capacities of the countries to address regional threats. In order to achieve this, the project was structured around the following main outputs: (i) establishment of a formal collaboration and coordination platform to promote TAD control among the countries in the GMS, (ii) improvement of animal disease risk management along the cross-border value chains and (iii) development of strategies and capacities to prevent African Swine Fever (ASF) and address the problems of endemic swine diseases.

IMPACT

The expected impact of the project was to reduce the risk of introduction and the impact of TADs in GMS, improving livelihoods, food and nutrition security and promoting trade within the region.



KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget

USD 3 010 382

Duration

September 2018–June 2023

Resource Partner

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of the People’s Republic of China

Partners

General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (Cambodia), Bureau of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (China), Department of Livestock and Fisheries (Lao People’s Democratic Republic), Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (Myanmar)

Beneficiaries

Ministries of agriculture, animal health departments veterinary laboratories and livestock institutions in the target countries, as well as local farmers and consumers

¹ Please note that for the purpose of these Project Highlights, any mention of the Government of Myanmar is in reference to the government in office before 1 February 2021.

ACTIVITIES

- A project steering committee and three technical working groups (TWGs) were established in Cambodia, China, Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar to strengthen communication and partnership, as well as to promote control of TADs and safe cattle trade. Two of the TWGs have been maintained and remain functional.
- Two cross-border value chains were identified – one between China and Lao People’s Democratic Republic and another between China and Myanmar – and a technical report was developed on safer cattle trade in the GMS and disseminated to participant countries. The report also includes an estimation of countries’ capacity for sustainable cattle production and analysis of market forces that influence cattle trade and sustainable levels of cattle production and trade in the region.
- Field capacity was strengthened in Lao People’s Democratic Republic and in Xishuangbanna District of Yunnan Province in China through training on quarantine management conducted in Luang Namtha Province, Lao People’s Democratic Republic. The training enhanced the knowledge and experiences of quarantine and animal health officers, as well as technical officers and grassroots personnel, such as farmers, village veterinary workers and animal traders, who are involved in early disease detection and timely reporting to contain the spread of animal diseases.
- A vaccination campaign on Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and Lumpy skin disease (LSD) was conducted in Luang Namtha Province, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, covering over 85 percent of the total population of 45 000 cattle and buffalos across five districts. For this purpose, 75 000 doses of FMD trivalent vaccine (O, A, Asia-1) and 190 000 doses of goat pox vaccine were provided.
- FMD-free zone established in Sing District for sustainable safer cattle trade between Lao People’s Democratic Republic and China.
- Provision of technical advice to revise the signed protocol for cattle trade between China and Lao People’s Democratic Republic.
- Following the report of disease outbreaks in Asia for the first time in August 2018, emergency support was provided to address the emergence of African swine fever (ASF) during the first year of project implementation.
- Electric battery-powered backpack sprayers, high-power electric agricultural sprayers and disinfectant equipment were provided to the Department of Livestock and Fisheries in 18 provinces of Lao People’s Democratic Republic to strengthen capacities in ASF emergency response.

Project Title

FAO-China South-South Cooperation
Project on Transboundary Animal Disease
Control in the Greater Mekong Subregion



Project Code

FAO: GCP/RAS/303/CPR

Contact

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
FAO-RAP@fao.org

Partnerships and Outreach
For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

