



Strategies to Prevent (STOP) Spillover

Impact Brief

Viet Nam

Technical Consultations for Year 4 Activities Implementation of STOP Spillover Project

Activity: Conduct technical consultation sessions at the interface level to design and implement Y4 workplan activities.

INTRODUCTION

Recognizing the potential role of wildlife farming and wildlife markets in the spillover risks associated with COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases (ZDs), the captive wildlife farming sector in Dong Nai province has been specifically identified as a high-priority, high-risk interface for STOP Spillover interventions.

Year 3 was characterized by active engagement with key partners and communities in Dong Nai province, leading to the successful implementation and completion of one core intervention and four supporting activities.

Building on the results and achievements from the activities and interventions conducted in Year 3, the STOP Spillover team will continue applying a stakeholder-driven, multisectoral One Health, and OH-DReaM approaches to design, test, and validate interventions focused on reducing zoonotic spillover risks in Year 4. From 23 – 26th January 2024, a series of technical consultation events were organized in Dong Nai province for Year 4 activities implementation at the provincial, district and community levels.



*Consultation Workshop to Implement Y4 Workplan at provincial level.
Photo credit: STOP Spillover Viet Nam*

Expected Outcomes

By engaging provinces, districts, and communes, the consultation seeks to enhance community involvement, promoting a localized perspective for the successful implementation of five activities in Year 4, including: 1) Strengthening Coordination in Prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases; 2) Developing and piloting a biosafety certification program for wildlife farms; 3) Preventive Healthcare for Farmed Wildlife; 4) Mitigate Spillover Risk in Marketed Wildlife and Wildlife Products; and 5) Community-based risk reduction campaign to mitigate zoonotic disease spillover.

Achievements

The consultations successfully engaged diverse stakeholders, including local authorities and partners from sectors such as Agriculture and Rural Development, Health, Environment, and Culture. Representatives from various unions, including Youth, Women, Livestock, and Farmers, as well as those from private pharmacies, were also involved. In total, 159 delegates participated across all levels, with 50 attendees at the provincial workshop, 51 at the district workshop, and 58 at the community consultation in the three districts (Tan Phu, Dinh Quan and Vinh Cuu) of Dong Nai province.

Strengthening coordination in prevention and control of zoonotic diseases

Based on the draft plan for preventing infectious diseases in humans within the health sector and in animals within the agricultural sector, the workshop discussed specific inter-sectoral coordination activities outlined in the 2024 Joint Plan for the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases between the health and agriculture sectors. These activities include monitoring and information sharing, investigation and response to outbreaks, as well as training and communication. Additionally, the workshop proposed locations and outlined specific activities to be carried out in the pilot model of comprehensive interdisciplinary coordination.



Discussion on biosafety certification program for wildlife farms

Developing and piloting a biosafety certification program for wildlife farms

Three models of Biosafety Certification were discussed, including VietGAP, Disease Safety, and Veterinary Hygiene. The workshop agreed that, in the first phase, the most feasible and easy-to-implement model to be tested would be the veterinary hygiene model, incorporating the application of 8 criteria from the VietGAP model. Additionally, the workshop proposed that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Dong Nai province would be the focal unit responsible for issuing and awarding certificates to households that meet the standards in wildlife farming.

Preventive healthcare for farmed wildlife

The workshop discussed vaccines and antiparasitic drugs for preventive healthcare in wildlife, including civets, deer, porcupines, and bamboo rats. Simultaneously, the workshop proposed priority options for piloting, such as vaccination against canine distemper virus (also known as Carré's disease or Care's disease in Vietnam) or deworming in farmed civets, using locally available vaccines and drugs.

Implementing measures to minimize the risk of disease spread from wildlife and wildlife products circulating in the market

To enhance health inspections for farmed wildlife, the workshop proposed a plan to formulate a set of clinical criteria for health inspections and to test this set of criteria. The workshop also addressed key aspects of coordination and the roles of rangers and veterinarians in these activities.

Community-based risk reduction campaign to mitigate zoonotic disease spillover

The consultations explored communication channels and suggested messages regarding disease prevention and biosecurity in wildlife farming. Numerous delegates showed keen interest in a communication plan utilizing videos and brief news updates on Facebook, disseminated through various wildlife farming groups, and other social media pages.



Consultation on community-based risk reduction campaign to mitigate zoonotic disease spillover at District and Commune levels

Next Steps

- Finalize detailed action plans for each activity
- Maintain active engagement with stakeholders in Dong Nai province to implement activities
- OH-DReaM Working Groups facilitate and implement planned activities.