Strategies to Prevent (STOP) Spillover
Activity Brief
Vietnam

Follow-Up Technical Support on Biosecurity-Biosafety Practices at Wildlife Farms

Activity 2.2.2.2. Develop and pilot a good farming practices biosecurity-biosafety certification for wildlife farms in Dong Nai Province, Vietnam

INTRODUCTION

STOP Spillover supports local stakeholders to develop and implement a biosecurity and biosafety certification program for wildlife farms. This program is modeled after Vietnam's successful *Good Animal Husbandry Practices* (Viet GAHP) certification system for livestock farms and, to our knowledge, is the first wildlife farming certification in Vietnam. The program encourages adoption of risk reduction interventions implemented and evaluated by STOP Spillover and other innovations by establishing integrated standards for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use, waste treatment, wildlife health, and product inspection (based on findings from Year 2 and lessons learned from Year 3).

The initiative promotes safer wildlife farming practices by:

- Incentivizing positive behavioral changes,
- Supporting good farming and biosafety-biosecurity practices, and
- Mentoring farmers to adopt safe wildlife farming methods.

Collaboration between officials and peer educators is central to implementing these interventions, which aim to improve farming standards for the four priority species: porcupines, bamboo rats, civets, and sambar deer. This activity aligns with Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) indicators for preventing pathogen emergence and release (Zoonotic Diseases 1.2; Biosafety 1.4), as well as Joint External Evaluation (JEE) indicators 5.1 (Surveillance of Zoonotic Diseases) and 5.3 (Sanitary Animal Production).

Purpose:

The purposes of this field trip were to observe the adoption of biosafety and biosecurity measures following the agreed criteria, provide additional technical support, and discuss the final evaluation plan with farm owners.

Activity Implementation

Between November 26 and December 28, 2024, Project Technical Officers collaborated with local agencies (Forest Protection Department, Veterinary Station, and One Health Workers) to visit nine pilot wildlife farms. Key activities included:

- Supporting farmers in adopting biosafety-biosecurity measures and addressing gaps.
- Guiding farm disinfection, including setting up disinfection pits or footwear protocols.
- Training farmers in solid waste treatment with Balasa No. 1 probiotics.
- Ensuring soap availability at handwashing stations.
- Enforcing strict access control and disinfection compliance.
- Establishing zones for quarantine, new arrivals, and sick animals.

Achievements:

- Disinfection Pits: Six farms implemented lime powder footbaths at entrances. Three others followed after the reminders.
- Farm Disinfection: All farms disinfected monthly using a 10% Povidone solution.
- PPE Guidelines: Posters on PPE usage were displayed at all farms.
- Functional Area Labels: Functional areas (e.g., food storage, isolation zones) were labeled, but some required replacement due to damage.
- Waste Treatment: Five farms used Balasa No. 1 yeast for waste composting management, while four others used water sprays and GEM-P1 yeast for wastewater.
- Awareness: Farmer and community awareness of zoonotic pathogen risks improved.
- Communication: The ZALO network was a key channel for technical support, marketing strategies, and disease prevention discussions.
- Commitment: All pilot farms committed to addressing gaps in biosafety and biosecurity practices.

Next steps:

- Collaborate with Dong Nai DARD to conduct final evaluations at pilot farm
- Document lessons learned and prepare for the certification stage.

Some photos taken during the field trip:

Spraying disinfectant at a civet farm

Practice using PPE and personal hygiene after feeding sambar deer

Organizing a medicine cabinet and green food area properly

Hanging educational poster on biosafety- biosecurity practices

Preparing a footbath with lime powder at the farm entrance

Bedding with fermented Balasa No.1 probiotic at a civet farm

Providing technical support at a bamboo rat farm

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