



# Strategies to Prevent (STOP) Spillover

## Activity Brief

### Vietnam

#### **Introduction of good farming practices and biosecurity certification procedures for wildlife farms**

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

## INTRODUCTION

STOP Spillover will support local stakeholders to develop and establish a good farming practices - biosecurity certification program. The wildlife farm certification system is modeled on the successful livestock farm certification system, Vietnamese Good Agricultural Practices (Viet GAP), already in place in Vietnam. To our knowledge, this is the first time certification has been developed for wildlife farming in Vietnam and the approach will incentivize application of the STOP Spillover interventions and other innovations in an integrated manner. It will set standards for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use, waste treatment, wildlife health, and product inspection (findings from Year 2 Activity 1.3.1.1 and lessons learned from Year 3 Activity 2.2.2.1). This activity will incentivize positive changes in wildlife farming, support the adoption of good farming practices and biosafety-biosecurity interventions, and mentor farmers to adopt improved wildlife farming practices. Officials and peer educators will collaborate closely to implement the intervention which will enhance overall farming practices on wildlife farms. This activity aligns to GHSA indicator (Preventing the emergence or release of pathogens with potential for international concern: Zoonotic diseases (1.2) and biosafety (1.4), and JEE indicators 5.1 (Surveillance of zoonotic disease) and 5.3 (Sanitary animal production)).

### **Purpose**

The purposes of this site visit were (1) to introduce the good farming practices and biosecurity criteria and the procedures for certification of the wildlife farms, and (2) to conduct baseline data collection to understand the current status of the wildlife farm practices and facilities, the biosafety-biosecurity and veterinary hygiene of the wildlife farms, and to obtain consent from wildlife farm owners to join the activity.

### **Expected outputs**

- Wildlife farm owners and local partners, including forest rangers and veterinary officials, fully understand the good farming practices - biosecurity criteria and procedures for certification of the wildlife farms.
- The status of the wildlife farms on farming practices, biosafety-biosecurity and veterinary hygiene is clearly understood via the baseline data collection.
- Wildlife farms owners are willing to join the activity and commit to the program to improve farming practices, biosafety-biosecurity and veterinary hygiene conditions according to the introduced criteria.

### **Activity conducted**

*Introduction of the certification criteria and procedure in Dinh Quan district, Dong Nai province from 13-14 June 2024.*

1. Presentation of the farming practices and biosecurity criteria for wildlife farm certification. Participants received a handout providing guidance on farm practices according to the good practices-biosecurity criteria.

- 25 participants (4 women and 21 men) attended the meeting introducing the criteria and procedures for wildlife farm certification at meeting hall in No 8 in the village of Gia Canh commune, Dinh Quan district. A handout guiding the application of each criterion was distributed to all participants.
  - Participants discussed each criteria, considering the practical issues of application on wildlife farms.
2. OH-DReaM working group members used a checklist of the criteria to collect baseline information at 8 farms (2 bamboo rat farms and 6 civet farms) to assess the current status of farm practices, biosafety-biosecurity and veterinary hygiene.

## Achievements

- A set of good farming practices and biosecurity criteria for wildlife farms is available for application;
- A application guide for good farming practices and biosecurity criteria was developed for wildlife farmers.
- 8 farms owners signed the consent forms for participation in the activity after in-person discussion of responsibilities and benefits of participation.
- Baseline information for 8 wildlife farms was collected and an initial assessment report of the current status of farming practices, biosecurity-biosafety and veterinary hygiene on the target wildlife farms is available to the implementing partners and the project.

## Next steps:

- Using the baseline information, project staff will work with the local OH-DReaM working group members to list the gaps that need to be addressed for each farm.
- Conduct field visits to the farms to discuss with the farm owner and workers about identified gaps and prioritize the tasks to be done. Project staff and local OH workers will support and mentor farmers to improve farming practice, biosafety-biosecurity, and veterinary hygiene condition of the farms.
- Project staff will collaborate with local implementing partners to conduct a field visits for evaluation of the farms according to the agreed criteria.



*Pictures of OH-DReaM working group members and wildlife farmers during the introduction session and farm visit*

*Photo credits: Vietnam OH-DReaM working group members*