



Optimising smallholder pig breeding organisation in villages in Northwest Vietnam

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Problem statement

- National development plans aim at integrating smallholder pig producers into a commercially-oriented, intensified pig production
- One option to ensure successful integration of smallholders in a more market-oriented pig production is the development of village breeding and management programmes
- For successful implementation of village breeding programmes, it is important to assess organisational feasibility of village breeding programmes

Study objective and research questions

Evaluate organisational structures of smallholder pig breeding:

- Which are existing breeding institutions in northern Vietnam, both public and private, that could directly or indirectly influence smallholder pig breeding?
- How are these breeding institutions linked and interrelated?
- Are these breeding institutions accessible for smallholder pig producers in Northwest Vietnam?

Material & Methods

Table 1: Overview about material and methods

Data collection (Figure 1)	Data analysis	Focus
Group discussions (guideline) 26 groups of smallholder pig producers in 8 villages Son La province	Mainly qualitative	Description and analysis of pig breeding organization at village level a) Internal structures: e.g. primary organisation, farmer organizations, activities b) External factors: e.g. framework conditions, linkages to other institutions, flows of animals
Personal interviews (guideline) 66 interviews in 16 public and 18 private breeding institutions 9 northern provinces	Mainly qualitative	Identification and description of breeding institutions (village to global level) a) Internal structures: e.g. organisation b) External factors: e.g. framework conditions; flows of animals, information, etc.; linkages
Desk study (secondary data) Legal documents, national programmes and plans, internet	Qualitative	Complement information obtained in group discussions and interviews

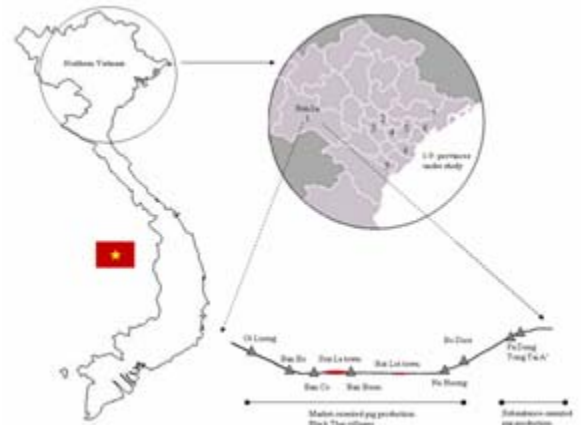


Figure 1: Map and schematic view of the study area

Results

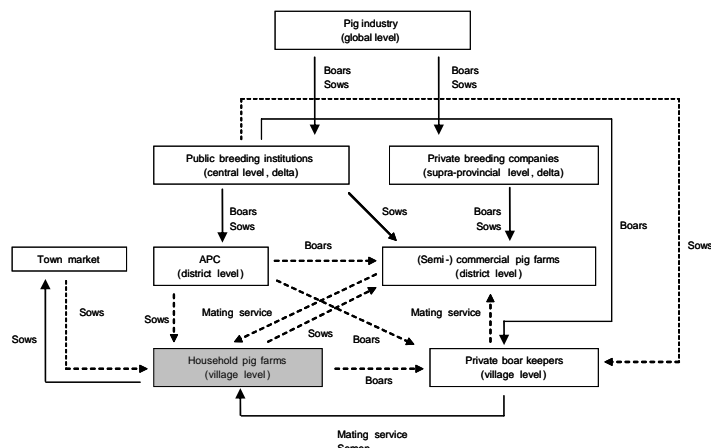
1. Farmer organisations at village level

Table 2: Types and functions of farmer organisations at village level

Types of farmer organizations	Functions of farmer organizations
Traditional political and socio-cultural village groups (all villages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Access to micro-creditsExchange of experiences and information
Village agricultural extension club (2 villages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improvement of technical skillsTraining on new technologies, breedingAccess to new technologies and micro-credit
Pig production group (1village)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exchange of experiences and informationSource of breeding animals

2. Smallholder linkages and interrelations to public and private breeding institutions

- Still strong influence by the state on pig breeding organisation and development
- National incentives to integrate smallholders in a commercially-oriented intensified pig production
- Links of smallholder pig producers to public and private breeding institutions rather weak
 - Only few interactions with large breeding companies and national research institutes
 - Limited accessibility to breeding support services and extension services
 - Animal flows largely limited and mainly between smallholders within one village (Figure 2)



APC: Agricultural Promotion Centre
Solid lines indicate important and dashed lines still reasonable flows between institutions.

Figure 2: Animal flows between household farms and breeding institutions (from village to global level)

Recommendations

- For successful implementation and sustainability of village breeding programmes, it is necessary to strengthen currently weak links of smallholder pig producers to other breeding institutions.
- Breeder cooperatives as a new institutional innovation in Vietnam could help establish or strengthen links to other breeding institutions and improve smallholders' access to support services and breeds.
- The relatively high organisational degree of existing farmer organisations at village level together with the generally positive attitude of smallholder pig producers towards new forms of cooperatives and extension services show the potential for the implementation of successful village breeding programmes.

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