

CARD Project Evaluation Summary Sheet

Project Number and Title: *009/05VIE - The development and implementation of new appropriate technologies for improving goat production and increasing smallholder income in the Central Region of Vietnam*

Vietnamese Institution: Goat and Rabbit Research Centre (GRRC), NIAH, MARD

Australian Partner Institution: The University of Queensland

Date Approved: March 05	Date Commenced: January 2006	Date Completed: April 2009
Project Budget (A\$)	Total: 686,758	From: AusAID: 372,003 Aust. Institution: 167,868 VN Institution: 146,887

Project Abstract:

This project aims at identification of limitations to improving goat productivity and profitability in southern Vietnam, presenting the new appropriate technologies to address these existing limitations, thereby improving the income and well-being of farmers in these areas. Activities to achieve the seven objectives in the project proposal have been completed. These include the training sessions for important target groups of local DARD officers, local extension workers, data to compare the inside and outside project goat farmers in the application of new and adequate technologies (improving housing, disease control, improving feed supply and quality, introduction of Bachthao bucks of proven genetic merit); designing, developing and publishing the technical manuals covering four main topics of Goat diseases, Goat care and housing, Pastures and goat nutrition and Breeds and breed management; preparing and publishing the Goat Training Manual; support for development of meat processing equipment at the slaughter-house in Ninh Thuan.

Objectives:

1. Identification and characterisation of target farms
2. Training and Information Dissemination
3. Provision of improved housing and health care for goats
4. Improve the availability and quality of feeds and forages for goats
5. Provide local (Bachthao) and introduced (Boer) bucks of proven genetic merit for breeding
6. Economic evaluation of impact of new technologies on goat productivity
7. Support for pilot meat processing facilities at the Ninh Hai Goat Research Centre, Ninh Thuan

Reports Produced (Milestone scheduled and completed):

MS	Scheduled	Completed
MS#2: First six- monthly report	July 2006	August 2006
MS#3: Second six-monthly report	January 2007	February 2007
MS#4: Goat Production Baseline	February 2007	February 2007
MS#5: Third six-monthly report	August 2007	July 2007
MS#6: Fourth six-monthly report	January 2008	March 2008
MS#7 Goat meat processing infrastructure	February 2008	November 2008
MS# 8: Fifth six-monthly report	August 2008	July 2008
MS#9: Goat Training Manual	September 2008	March 2009
MS#10: Competent GRRC and DARD staff	January 2009	February 2009
MS#11: Project Completion Report	February 2009	June 2009

Members of Evaluation Team: - Ms. Pham Thi Thanh Thuy (Team leader), Department of Cooperatives, MPI - Mr. Pham Tung Lam, STED, MARD - Mr. Keith Milligan, CARD Chief Technical Adviser - Mr. Nguyen Ha Hue: CARD M&E Coordinator		Date of Evaluation: Field visit: 26 – 29 August 2009 Office work: 20 – 25 August and 01 – 10 Sept 2009	Project Completion Impact Evaluation (PCIE)
Evaluation Summary	Score a/	Comments	
Relevance	4	<p>The project addressed the real needs of the participating <i>small holder goat farmers</i> and is relevant to poverty reduction goal in the Southeast areas since goats are particularly crucial for the poor providing good returns for relatively low cost.</p> <p><i>With regard to provincial programs:</i> The project relates well with provincial programs on the goat production development, which aim to increase the share of husbandry in total agriculture GDP up to 30-40% by the year 2020 in these three provinces.</p> <p><i>At the national level:</i> The new technologies of breeding management in animal stocks (to prevent inbreeding problems) and the provision of new high-yield breeds (Boer, Saanen, cross-bred with the local ones) were related to the national program on animal breeds over the period of 2006-2010 (Decision 2238-QĐ/BNN-KH on 31/8/2005 issued by MARD)</p> <p>The contribution of goats to total meat (and milk) production in Vietnam is small as is its contribution to agriculture GDP. However in poverty alleviation, small scale livestock production is a well proven tool at the household level. However although small herds (Less than 10 does) will contribute to family food security and provide some income, it is doubtful if small herd will provide profits for farmers.</p>	
Effectiveness	4	<p>The project has succeeded in achieving all seven objectives. Project activities have contributed to addressing the objectives (with the exception of Objective 7). The new technologies of goat housing innovation, a fixed schedule on goat vaccination and disease treatment, feeding management and breeding management have been modified by the project staff to meet the local conditions that have been applied in all 27 participating goat farms and spread out to some more farms outside of the project.</p> <p>The PCIE estimated that about 40% of the additional income was due to the better control of goat diseases, the other 25% from better nutrition, the next 20-25% from the breeding technologies and the rest is due to the hygienically improved housing and other factors. Again this is the evidence of the right-direction and appropriate selection of strategies and activities to achieve the project goal.</p> <p>In November 2008, some meat processing facilities have been installed with the aims at providing the goat farmers- small producers with opportunities to access a stable market and the high prices paid. This input has not yet (nor is it likely to) provide significant benefits to smallholders.</p> <p>On-farm recording is a key to economic assessment of the project impact, but the project did not adequately promote the uptake of recording systems for production management or income and expenditure from raising goats. The 3-monthly visits from DARD staff to participating farmers could have been used to ensure that suitable records were kept, but this did not happen.</p>	
Efficiency	4	<p>The project has provided substantial inputs for all demonstration farms. In terms of efficiency and equity the concentration of project inputs on very few farms could be questioned. If the project had encouraged/promoted the goat farmers to share the cost of investment in these</p>	

		<p>activities, the number of the project beneficiaries would be larger.</p> <p>The project staff carried out the disease control and vaccination program based on their three month visits to these demonstration farms and a fixed program of vaccinations has been recommended. Farmers experience in implementation of vaccination programs appeared to be limited and on-going availability of vaccines (goat pox, enterotoxaemia) is also likely to reduce the efficiency (and sustainability) of the project..</p> <p>It also appeared that the inputs by GRRC remained at a high level for all target farms throughout the project life. Perhaps this ensured that activities were undertaken in a timely manner, but may be delegation of more of the inputs to trained DARD staff or through encouraging participating farmers to take more responsibility could reinforce the skills required to scale up the project in the future.</p> <p>Perhaps one of the greatest efficiency gains was the level of project management. This was enhanced by a good logframe with clearly defined objectives, outputs and activities aligned to budgets.</p>
Impact	4.5	<p>The capacity of small producers - farmers has been built in four main areas including hygienically improved housing, inbreeding prevention and the selection of breeds, pasture establishment for providing the animals with well nutrition feeds in the dry days and the disease control on the goat farms. During the three year cycle of the project, a further 300 farmers have been trained in the application of these technologies.</p> <p>The project has really helped the goat farmers to improve their animal productivity, the production profitability and hence, to enhance the farmer income and well- being.</p> <p>Based on some key assumptions the analysis done by the PCE team shows a relatively high BCR for project interventions.</p>
Sustainability	4	<p>The project has produced positive outcomes which are likely to be maintained and replicated. The indicators that were identified during the field trip include:</p> <p>Participating farmers spoke with confidence about their ability to introduce and train other farmers in these new technologies of goat production under the agricultural extension program in the districts. Demonstration farms in the project are the key components of the CARD project and if maintained will be useful for spreading the value of new technologies.</p> <p>The hygienic goat shed innovation has been applied in some non-project farms in these provinces too. Concrete floors under the goat shed has a high cost and innovative farmers have modified the flooring using nets or compacted soil sloping floors at a much lower cost.</p> <p>Most the inside project farmers and the two outside project goat producers visited in the PCIE mission have really appreciated that the improvement of their knowledge of disease prevention, vaccine application and disease treatment for their goats. Despite the ending of the project aid, the participating goat producers will continue to have 2 key vaccines of goat pox and enterotoxaemia on the goats in their farming. But a concern of the supply of good quality vaccines was raised in discussions with all interviewed farmers and the DARD officials.</p> <p>In addition to the control of inbreeding in the demonstration herds, the provision of new younger bucks (Bach thao, some Boer and Saanen breeds) by the project has created the higher productive goats in terms of weigh gain and fertility rate for the demonstration farmers. But as the difficulties in goat growth recording, ear – tagged practices were described above, a question of keeping these breed management outcomes still remains.</p> <p>So far, an official linkage and commitment between the goat farmers and the slaughter house owner has not been established. There is unstable supply for the slaughter plant as well as the volatility in the prices and markets for the goats. Thus, the question of the efficiency and sustainability of the investment in the meat processing facilities is still open.</p>

		<p>While it is clear that capacity has improved for staff involved as members of the project implementation team, the evidence that DARD extension staff have improved knowledge and skills and the commitment to assist farmers to adopt improved goat production systems is less obvious.</p> <p>Finally, the positive outcomes of the project will be a foundation for the local decision-makers in designing and building up appropriate policies and plan to develop this livestock industry in these areas. Funding by the Government budget and other available sources, the dissemination of these new technologies for improving goat production will be continued and spread out to the farmers in these provinces in the upcoming years.</p>
Average Score	4.1	<p>In overall, the PCIE team found that this project is highly successful in relation to its relevance, efficiency and effectiveness. The impact and sustainability of the project have with positive initial signs expected to be successful since many small producers-farmers have adapted/uptaken these new technologies in raising goats in these provinces. The project has brought benefits to broad target groups of small goat farmers, DARD officials and local extension workers. However, it is needed to promote the use of farmer-to-farmer extension services for improving technology transfer, to link farmers to markets and to focus on diversification of sources of farmer income.</p>
<p>Overall Assessment b/: <i>Highly satisfactory</i></p>		
<p>Major Problems Identified:</p> <p>At the beginning of the project in 2006, the lack of the accurate information/data on goat diseases and the epidemics in all three provinces (neither from the farmers nor from DARD officers) forced the project team to provide a range of measures to control goat diseases suspected, although goat pox was finally diagnosed as the most serious disease affecting the goat stocks.</p> <p>Vaccination and control of goat pox, which was a major cause of death at the start of the project did have a very significant effect on productivity, profitability and farmer motivation levels. This seems to reoccur perhaps every 2 generations. This may imply that goats that survive an outbreak of goat pox may pass some level of immunity to their immediate progeny, but that this level of immunity is not strong in the following generation. The epidemiology and etiology of goat pox is a research area that may provide valuable insights into the management and control of the disease. Other issues, such as the availability of vaccines, quantification of financial benefits and goat slaughter premises have already been discussed.</p> <p>To apply the sustainable management of goats to improve productivity, animal identification is considered an essential activity to enable recording at the individual animal and farm levels. Project staff found difficult to persuade goat farmers to change their traditional practices. The farmers did not want to apply ear-tags or make any marks on their animals. Additionally, expenditure of ten thousand VND on one tag is relatively expensive for the farmers. Thus, on visits to the demonstration farms the evaluation team observed that the tags often fell out or were chewed and most farmers were unable to re-identify these goats.</p> <p>At the start of the project in 2006, goats in many farms in the project areas were infected and died due to some diseases. This caused goat prices at the farm gate to fall. The frequent and large fluctuations in goat prices have vigorously affected psychology of all goat producers and their response. As prices have drop off, most the producers want to sell their goat stocks flooding the market and further depressing the prices paid.</p> <p>Unfortunately, during the project implementation the global economic depression occurred. Hence, it has some negative effects on the markets and the prices paid for goats and goat production as well.</p>		
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <p>Unless there was the active participation and the close collaboration between GRRC, the Australian partner and all the related parties in the three provinces of implementation project (especially, officers from DARDs, people from the centres of Agricultural Extension at provincial and district levels as well as the local extension workers) the project could not</p>		

achieve the outstanding outcomes as mentioned above.

The project took a comprehensive approach in strategies and implementation activities to improve the goat production and thus the profitability. The introduced technologies are logical and in the main low cost, relatively low and easily adopted by farmers.

The project was executed on principles of the selective application of the experiences and project implementation in some areas in the North Vietnam, at the same time some improvements and modifications were carried out to suit the regional conditions in the Southeast areas and to meet the demands of the local farmers.

The farmer selection to participate in the project based on their farming experiences in the goats, willingness and keenness to apply the new techniques in the goat production is an important factor to guarantee the success of the project activities and implementation.

Recommendations:

Collection and analysis of on-farm data to provide information on the financial and other benefits. Provision of this well data in a “farmer friendly” format is seen as a very useful extension tool.

Testing the capacities of DARD extension workers to be able to provide the assistance needed by “new” goat farmers as the benefits of the project are scaled up.

Promoting the use of farmer-to-farmer extension services and investigation on a revolving fund concept to develop greater ownership and commitment from within project farmers and better equity for farmers outside the project.

Linking farmers to markets. The investment of equipment in the slaughter house was not effective. The issues of market information on both inputs and outputs of goat production particularly, and of animal industry generally, are included in the project implementation activities.

Improved transfer of project management skills to both GRRC staff and to DARD extension teams.

Development of strategies within the three target provinces for scaling up and to capitalise on the benefits that the project has very clearly demonstrated.

Introduction of farming as a business training and understanding to promote the small producers- farmers to keep records in order to be able to evaluate/assess the farm-level agribusiness profitability by themselves.

The poor is the most affected and vulnerable people in these areas. It is needed to collect, analyse and appraise opportunity costs of goat farming and compare it with other animal or crop cultivations. This will help the poor – small producers to diversify their income sources and minimize the risks.

The Goat Training Manual has been well designed and developed by the project team. This material covers the expansive topics of technologies for improving the goat production. However this manual is written and published in English only. The manual should be translated into Vietnamese, improved and published to the people who are interested in the fields (such as the lectures, students in Agricultural Universities; officials working in the agricultural and rural development fields at all levels from nation wide to local, agricultural extension workers). Moreover, these materials should be simple, easy to understand and apply in practices. It is recommended that the project team to work further with the National Extension Program to have Goat Training Manual published in Vietnamese as soon as possible.

In conjunction with the involvement of the mass organizations in rural areas (women unions, farmer union) the fund for buck rotation should be founded. As a result, the number of beneficiaries will be expanded. In addition, under the provincial program on agricultural extension, the training and re-training the small producers-farmers should be executed along with the demonstration at the project pilot farms if possible.

a/ 1 = worst 5 = best b/ Highly Satisfactory, Satisfactory, Moderately Satisfactory, Un-satisfactory