



PRAXIS

INNOVATIVE EXPERIENCES BY AVSF



© AVSF

COUNTRY

Cambodia

PROJECT TITLE

ANIMAL HEALTH

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

1,700 Village Animal Health Workers (VAHW) and more than 50,000 families

LOCAL PARTNERS

Rural Veterinarians from Cambodia (VRC), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Animal Health and Production (DAHP), etc.

PERIOD

1992-2013 (several projects)

TOTAL COST

more than 1,500,000 €

MAIN FUNDING AGENCIES

AFD, IFAD, European Union, AusAID, FAO, CIDA

Proximity Animal Health services in Cambodia

Train Village Animal Health Workers to provide local animal health services to farming families

The Village Animal Health Workers (VAHW): permanent human resources for local animal health services

During a support partnership with the Royal Agriculture University, AVSF conducted in May 1992 in Cambodia, a study showing how high animals' morbidity and mortality rates were in the villages. Traditional farming practices, sometimes not really adapted, were an important factor, but beyond, the main reason for such a situation was the weak coverage of the district by veterinarians: only 1 vet for 100 villages with 130 family farms per village! AVSF decided to settle at the village level Animal Health Services such as treatments, vaccinations, pests control, advices and education to farmers, and information on sanitary status to public services.

First, from 1992 to 2006, more than 600 VAHW, elected among and by the villagers themselves, have been trained to give treatment services, vaccinations, and pests control; these services have to be paid, in order to be sustainable. Recognizing the success of this inno-

vation, other NGOs have then supported the implementation of such services. AVSF contributed through the training of VAHW trainers. In order to transfer this strength to a national structure, AVSF has then supported the creation of a local NGO: Rural Veterinarians of Cambodia (VRC). Its members are the previous trainers of VAHW trainers and its goal is to keep on training new VAHW. This training skill is now also handled by public services.

Thanks to AVSF action, VAHW's status is now recognized, regulated and legislated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry through a subnational decree (N°26), four statements and one law, with the following target: to have 1 VAHW per village all over Cambodia.

Today, approximately 12,000 VAHW (including more than 1,500 ones trained by AVSF), are providing local animal health services. The level of activity and competency is still heterogeneous, but the main service is to treat sick animals. Most family farms have access to these services, institutionalized by the government. Results are there: a real decrease in animal morbidity and mortality, which has a positive impact on both food security and family farms income.



Diversified activities and VAHW organizations to make animal health services durable

To sustain these local services, starting from 1996, AVSF has started to structure VAHW into associations. The initial objective was to transfer the procurement of veterinary products from AVSF to VAHW, thanks to the settlement of pharmacies at district level, supervised by public veterinary services. Today, among the 25 associations initially created, 16 are still active. The others were not able to compete with private suppliers that started their activity later on.

In some cases, the district veterinarians have chosen a VAHW representative to become the animal health town agent, in order to facilitate vaccination campaigns organized by the government and to facilitate

information transfer from village level to district level. VAHW have been recognized by FAO as key actors in the animal diseases surveillance, especially zoonosis such as avian influenza. In this perspective, AVSF has collaborated in 2011/2012 with FAO, so as to apply to VAHW associations the participative method used to evaluate farmers organizations.

Most of these associations have enlarged their activities, according to their members' needs: manufacturing of animal feeds based on local raw ingredients, sow production units, animal sales, savings and loans systems, bank of fertilizers... Depending on the government policy, some associations have changed their statutes to become cooperatives and to engage in commercial approach. AVSF keeps on supporting these associations in their evolution.

Review date: 03/2014



© AVSF

TO GO FURTHER:

Proximity and quality animal health services: the teaching from AVSF experience

AVSF cooperates since 25 years in the South to set up animal health services allowing to manage sanitary risks and to effectively support the development of animal husbandry. This document presents the different approaches and methods for local, quality and sustainable systems, such as the one used in Cambodia. The publication shows that an adapted plan does not only include the training of animal husbandry auxiliaries but it must take into account every stakeholder involved in the animal health sector: sanitary national authority, private veterinarians, VAHW, farmers and their groups, essential links of epidemiological surveillance networks.



To know more:

Hervé Petit
h.petit@avsf.org

Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

Lyon

14 F bis, av. Berthelot - 69007 Lyon
Tel: 04 78 69 79 59

Nogent-sur-Marne

45 bis av. de la Belle Gabrielle
94736 Nogent-sur-Marne