

Gender Strategy and Gender Integration in Livestock for Equitable and Sustainable Food Systems in Son La, Vietnam

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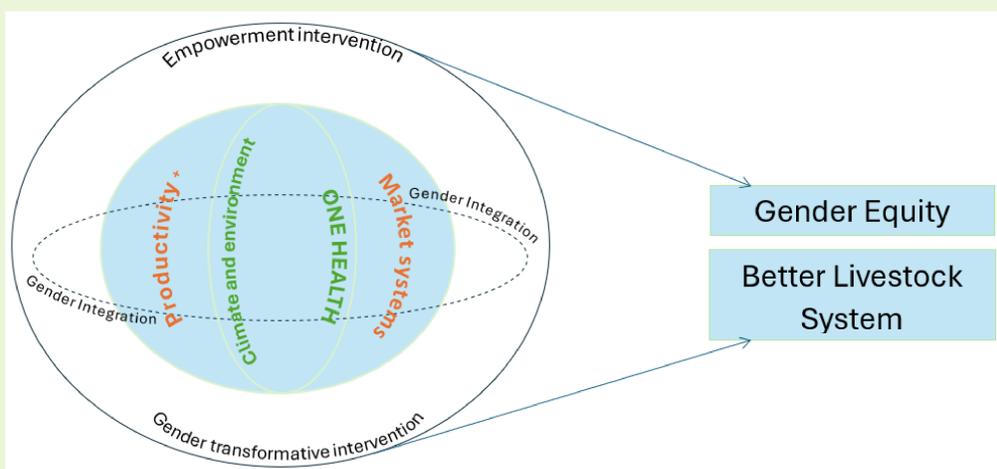
Problem statement

The northern mountainous region of Vietnam, home to ethnic minorities, faces low livestock productivity, market access for animal products, and food safety. Notably, women's empowerment in livestock remains consistently lower than men's across all species (cattle, pigs, goats, and poultry). Women's disempowerment is characterised by limited access to productivity-enhancing technologies; to credit and to capital; workload imbalances; constrained mobility; and low self-efficacy (belief in own ability to succeed in tasks). Inequitable gender norms are one root cause of such disempowerment which ultimately affects the progress of the livestock sector.

The solution

SAAF's gender work focuses on 3 key components to progress towards equitable and productive livestock.

1. Supporting women's empowerment
2. Transforming inequitable gender norms thereby addressing the root causes of women's disempowerment
3. Integrating gender considerations in technological innovations so that they respond to the needs and preferences of all.



Key activities implemented

- **Enhanced the capacity** of local officers (provincial and commune levels) in tackling gender norms, women's empowerment, and gender-responsive planning in the livestock sector.
- **Implemented social behaviour change communication (SBCC)** to challenge restrictive gender norms.
- **Integrated gender** considerations into livestock technical research tools and technological innovations.
- **Institutionalized gender-transformative approaches** in livestock by integrating them into the Bachelor's curricula of Gender and Development and training courses at the Vietnam Women's Academy.



Women and men farmers at the SBCC of gender equality (Photo credit: ILRI/Phuong Nguyen)

Scalability and regional relevance

The gender-responsive technical innovations, and the gender-transformative, and empowerment interventions are designed as a modular framework, allowing for seamless integration into livestock systems across the northern mountainous region of Vietnam and Southeast Asia. By prioritizing low-cost, community-based communication tools and local capacity building, these interventions are highly adaptable to diverse ethnic minority contexts in these upland areas and beyond.

Partners and donors involved

The Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion Area of Work of SAAF is co-implemented by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (ABC), in collaboration with the Vietnam Women's Academy (VWA), the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), the Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA), the Thang Creative Agency (TCA), and the Sub-Department of Animal Husbandry, Animal Health and Aquaculture of Son La Province, working closely in collaboration with local actors, including women and men livestock keepers.

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