Chăn-hênh Initiative: Transforming Upland Livestock Systems in Vietnam through Integrated Innovations

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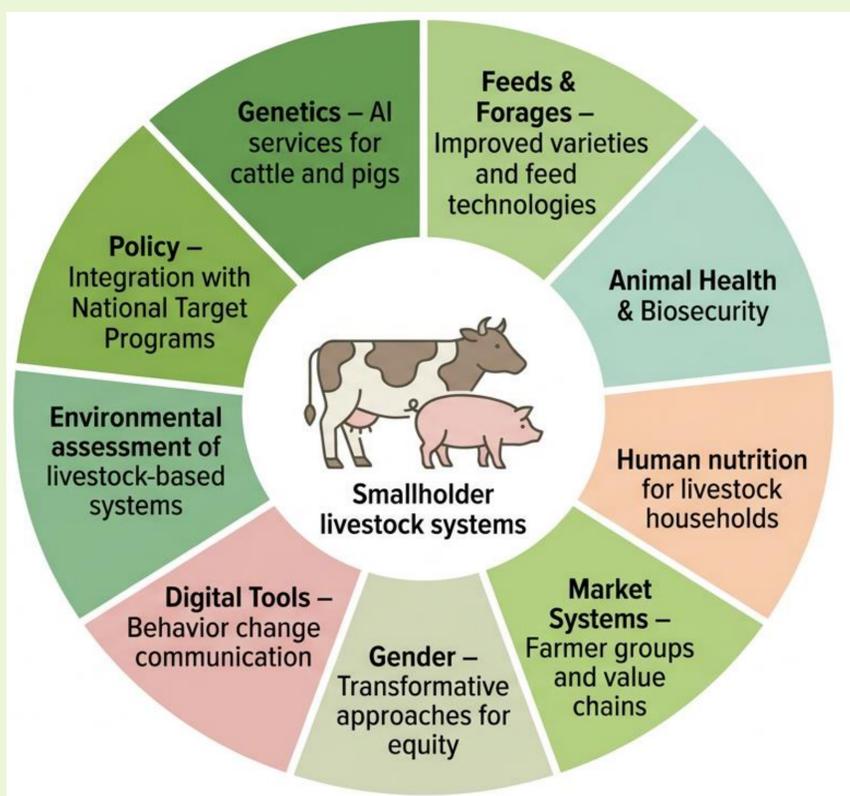
Problem statement

Smallholder livestock systems in Northwest Vietnam face major constraints, including limited access to improved genetics, seasonal feed shortages, livestock diseases, weak market linkages and gender barriers.

The Chan-henh initiative addresses these challenges through integrated livestock innovations that improve productivity, nutrition and livelihoods.

The Chăn-hênh model

Chan-henh model integrates multiple interconnected components to holistically improve livestock productivity.

A farmer takes care of her cattle in Son La (Photo: ILRI/Chi Nguyen).

Key results and achievements

- Integrated livestock innovations demonstrated with smallholder farmers, combining genetics, feeding, animal health, markets and nutrition.

- Local livestock capacity strengthened, with farmers, extension agents, veterinarians and service providers trained on improved practices.

- Farmer groups established as innovation platforms, improving access to services and markets and engaging women and ethnic minority farmers.

- Evidence generated informing livestock policies and supporting integration into provincial strategy and National Target Programs.

Scalability and regional relevance

The Chan-henh model demonstrates how integrated livestock innovations and farmer-centered approaches can strengthen smallholder livestock systems in upland areas.

Key scaling pathways include:

- Embedding innovations within national extension systems and livestock development programs.

- Strengthening local service providers and farmer groups to deliver bundled innovations.

- Building partnerships with government, research and private sector to support livestock value chains.

- Generating evidence to inform policies and investments for sustainable livestock systems.

The approach offers a scalable model for Vietnam and similar upland livestock systems across Southeast Asia.

Partners and donors involved

Chan-henh is co-implemented by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (ABC), the Vietnam Institute of Animal and Veterinary Sciences (VIAVS), the Vietnam Women's Academy (VWA), the Department of Agriculture and Environment (DAE) of Son La Province , the Sub-Department of Animal Husbandry, Animal Health and Aquaculture of Son La Province, and the Agriculture Division and Agriculture Service Center of selected communes within Son La, working closely in collaboration with local actors including women and men livestock keepers.

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