

Safer pork from small- and medium- slaughterhouses: Technical- and incentive-based interventions

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Problem statement

Small- and medium-scale slaughterhouses supply a large proportion of fresh meat in many low- and middle-income countries, but limited hygiene infrastructure and inconsistent sanitation practices increase the risk of meat contamination and foodborne disease.

Most food safety interventions focus on training or industrial carcass decontamination technologies, which are often too costly or impractical for small-scale slaughter systems. Recently, attention has shifted to low-cost, context-appropriate interventions combining improved equipment and behavioural incentives, yet evidence on their impact remains limited.

The Innovations

The innovation tested two complementary interventions to improve slaughterhouse hygiene and food safety:

Technique intervention

- Engagement with local authorities
- Interactive training on hygienic practices
- Provision of low-cost equipment (e.g., stainless-steel grids and cleaning materials) with hygiene reminder posters.

Incentive intervention

- Regular hygiene reminders through loudspeaker announcements
- Hygiene practice rating and public display of scores
- Prize awards to reward improved hygiene compliance



Technical intervention installed in a slaughterhouse. *Trang Le/ILRI*

Scalability and regional relevance

- Relevant for livestock systems across Asia and the Pacific, where small and medium slaughterhouses dominate meat supply.
- The interventions use low-cost, context-appropriate improvements, allowing adaptation to different slaughterhouse conditions and regulatory environments.
- Early engagement of local authorities during intervention design supports ownership and increases the potential for adoption and scale-up in the near future.

Key results and impacts

- **Improved hygiene practices** in slaughterhouses through training and provision of low-cost equipment.
- Incentive-based measures encouraged **improved hygiene compliance** during implementation periods.
- Hygiene practices **tended to revert when incentives were no longer maintained**.
- Persistent contamination risks highlight the **need for multi-level improvements** in infrastructure, operations, and worker practices.
- Evidence generated to inform **scalable and context-appropriate** food safety interventions **in Vietnam and similar settings**.

Partners and donors involved

- Sub-Departments of Animal Health
- Communal, district authorities & veterinarians
- Slaughterhouse owners & workers
- Vietnam Institute of Animal and Veterinary Sciences
- Vietnam National University of Agriculture, Can Tho University
- CGIAR Sustainable Animal and Aquatic Foods (SAAF) Science Program
- One Health CGIAR initiative.
- CGIAR Trust Fund

