FARMVETCARE APP: A DIGITAL APPROACH TO IMPROVING ANIMAL DISEASE REPORTING FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

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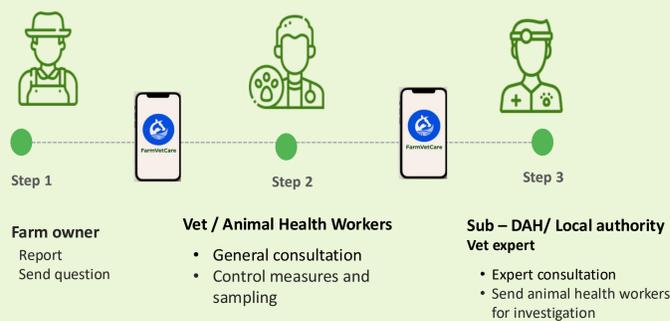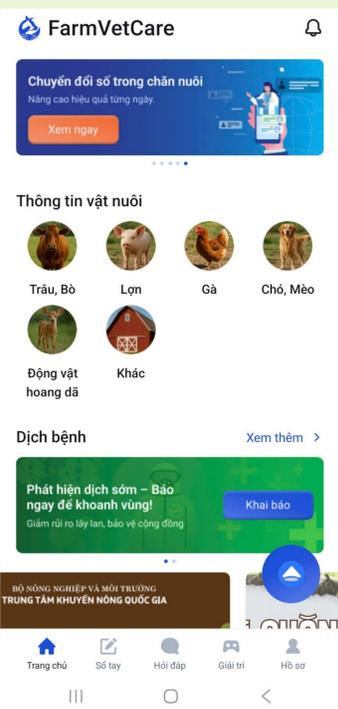*Corresponding author: H.T.T.Nguyen@cgiar.org

Problem statement

The livestock sector is vital to Vietnam's rural livelihoods, food security, and agricultural productivity. Smallholder farmers, however, face persistent animal health challenges, including recurrent disease outbreaks, limited access to veterinary services, and weak surveillance systems, which are exacerbated by delayed information flows that hinder outbreak response. To address these gaps, the ICT4Health project developed *FarmVetCare*, a mobile application, which enables farmers to report symptoms, receive early warnings, schedule vaccinations, maintain health records, and access professional guidance for improved farm management.

Training farmers using the FarmVetCare app. Photo: Linh Nguyen/VIAVS

The solution/Innovation

FarmVetCare is a mobile application offering smallholder farmers free veterinary advisory services, disease alerts, and livestock care guidelines through a user-friendly interface with the support from the local vet and automatically responding AI to user questions. It serves as a digital platform for animal health record-keeping and rapid access to professional consultation.

By facilitating direct interaction among farmers, veterinary staff, and regulatory authorities, the app strengthens information flow, improves early reporting of animal health issues, and enhances coordinated responses to disease threats, thus addressing critical gaps in veterinary access and surveillance for rural livestock keepers.

Step 1

Farm owner
Report
Send question

Step 2

Vet / Animal Health Workers
• General consultation
• Control measures and sampling

Step 3

Sub – DAH/ Local authority Vet expert
• Expert consultation
• Send animal health workers for investigation

Key results/impacts

• Over 1,000 users have installed the FarmVetCare application, including 969 farmers and 36 local veterinarians trained in farm biosecurity and app use.
• Training activities have improved farmers' knowledge and skills.
• Users demonstrate greater capacity for early disease detection and timely response.
• App-based reporting enhances early case identification and targeted diagnostic follow-up, supporting more effective herd management and disease control by local authorities.
• Increasing numbers of farmers installing and actively using the application could generate substantial benefits, including improved household income, better animal health, reduced production costs, positive environmental outcomes, and supportive institutional or policy impacts.

Scalability and regional relevance

Equipping farmers and local veterinary with digital tools, along with trainings and interventions shows strong potential for broader application in Vietnam to reduce zoonotic and infectious disease risks in pig production. The model can be scaled to other provinces due to its low cost, ease of implementation, and adaptability to diverse livestock systems.

Partners and donors involved

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