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Survey on small-scale urban and peri-urban livestock systems in Angiang province

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Abstract

Although an important agricultural province, Angiang also includes two urban areas: Long Xuyen City and Chau Doc Town. Long Xuyen is the trade center and the socio-economic, political and cultural capital of Angiang province, and is a dynamic centre with a high growth potential. Chau Doc is a long-established and thriving trade and service centre, with businesses nourished by an ever-increasing number of tourists to Sam mountain resort nearby. Over the past few years local economic development has contributed to a considerable job generation, income improvement and hence an ever-increasing demand and consumption of livestock products. Together with urbanization, production activities in Angiang have also changed; besides producing specialized, high quality raw materials, the export of rice and aquaculture products (basa, tra, and lobsters) is also rapidly increasing. Large-scale commodity-based livestock production, with a special focus on beef cattle, pigs and even crocodiles, is also increasing.

In this context, livestock production in Angiang province has to change in order to ensure that it both provides enough food to meet local demand and also does not damage the environment, especially in urban areas. So, surveys on small-scale livestock production in urban areas of Angiang province were carried out, in both Long Xuyen city and Chau Doc town. They were carried out in seven wards (four in Long Xuyen and three in Chau Doc) and two communes (one in Long Xuyen and one in Chau Doc) in which in total 270 households were interviewed to get information about the characteristics of the household, such as manpower, household activities, income, capital, husbandry techniques and reasons for keeping; also livestock production, including the number of livestock kept, rearing systems, animal housing, feeds, breeds, veterinary inputs and marketing of animal products; also information was obtained on the major constraints in keeping livestock and the effects of flooding and avian influenza on livestock production in the area.

The results of these surveys showed that most livestock producers were women (70% in Long Xuyen and 60% in Chau Doc) with an average age of between 31-50 and their level of education were mostly elementary school only (46% in Long Xuyen and 55% in Chau Doc). Most kept animals for income by using every available resource in their household, such as labour and feed, which included food wastes, crop by-products, rice husks and natural grasses. The pig was the major species in both areas, followed by poultry, cattle, buffalo and goats. Several producers

keep breeding females to produce replacements themselves and the products were bought by middlemen or were sold directly, depending on species. The main problems that producers experienced were animal feed, lack of capital, markets and floods, of which lack of animal feed was the most important problem in Long Xuyen City (80%) whereas in Chau Doc Town lack of capital was cited as the most important problem (63.3%). More producers in Chau Doc Town experienced problems in the flooding season than in Long Xuyen City (21.7% and 14.6%, respectively).

Although avian influenza affects both poultry and humans, more than 50% of producers in the two areas did not consider it a problem (57.3% in Long Xuyen and 50% in Chau Doc), and 63.3% of producers in Long Xuyen and 54.2% in Chau Doc said that they would continue keeping poultry. There were significant differences between the two urban areas concerning breeding pigs and cattle and protecting the environment. Though artificial insemination (AI) is popular today, and is practiced by 84.3% of livestock producers in Long Xuyen City, only 8.2% of livestock producers in Chau Doc town used AI. Most livestock producers in Long Xuyen City claimed to pay attention to protecting the environment, and 84% of them had cesspool and 33.3% used manure, whereas in Chau Doc, only 41.7% had a cesspool and only 21.6% used manure.

Key words: urban livestock production, peri-urban livestock production, role of women, environment, seasonal flooding, avian influenza
