



Living Lab in the Poultry Sector in Vietnam



Credit: Huong Nguyen Tu

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Poultry sector

Chicken

The Vietnamese poultry Living Lab consisted of 15 people from seven different organizations (veterinary services at the provincial, district, and communal levels; farmers; veterinarians; drug sellers; drug companies; chicken retailers; and university professors) to brainstorm ways to reduce antimicrobial use (AMU) at the local level. Half of the group had participated in individual interviews, and more participants were invited to represent the entire sector. The Living Lab developed various strategies, and two plans of action for a 'Action Lab' were developed. The Living Lab consisted of three meetings at the local level over the course of three weeks in April 2022. The Action Lab could be implemented in the near future.

The strategy tested in the Living Lab

The first strategy aimed to raise awareness among farmers and consumers about the importance of reducing AMU, practicing good biosecurity, and producing organically by broadcasting videos on national television twice a week in the evening. The content of the videos will be based on a preliminary survey to assess the needs of the targeted audience, and will be produced by television channels in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture. The livestream will take place on model farms that have implemented good biosecurity and/or organic production practices. The second strategy aimed to organize AMU, AMR, biosecurity, and organic production training for drug sellers who will be then able to train breeders. Drug companies, university professors, provincial veterinary services and agricultural service centers will provide training. Training will also be available online, and flyers will be distributed.

The roadmap to implementation

The ImpresS ex ante methodology was used to co-develop strategies to reduce AMU in poultry production in Vietnam. This methodology started with the development of a shared vision of the future in order to improve biosecurity and develop organic production on farms. Participants identified several barriers to reach this common vision, including a lack of organic product outputs, a lack of sciences and technologies, inadequate training, and a high proportion of small-scale farms.

Participants decided to focus on improving biosecurity and organic production training and awareness for farmers, drug sellers, and consumers. Training courses should be better adapted to field constraints by assessing farmer needs.



The impact created by the Living Lab

AMU: The Living Lab established an AMU and AMR discussion group comprised of various stakeholders from the public and private sectors. Solutions to reduce AMU could be shared with other actors via the participant's network. Improving biosecurity will help to reduce disease incidence, which will reduce AMU, and organic production standards will also help to reduce AMU.

Animal health: Training courses will help to reduce animal burden on farms by improving biosecurity practices as well as using alternative feed additives.

Expenses and savings: The costs of animal diseases and the costs of antibiotics will be reduced thanks to the changes created by the Living Lab, which will contribute to an increase in the livelihood of farmers. The growth of organic farming might also result in a higher valorization of the products, which would be accomplished through the establishment of specialized distribution channels.



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Credit: Chloé Bâtte

Challenges

- Consumers, small-scale farmers, and drug companies (that only sell AB) were omitted from the discussions.
- Time constraints prevented the ImpresS exante method and the Action Lab from being fully implemented.
- The results have not yet been disseminated at the national level.

Successes

- Everyone had the opportunity to voice their opinion.
- Meeting attendance did not decrease over time, with 15 people attending each meeting and 12 attending all three.
- Knowledge and experience exchange between various types of organizations.
- The research team owns the methodology and the results.

Reducing AMU in Vietnam requires a variety of solutions, including improved training and awareness programs, the development of alternative forms of socioeconomic organization such as cooperatives, and the adoption of new quality standards. The developed strategies must now be shared with policymakers and implemented.

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