

PALD SUCCESS STORIES...

...Women's Union Leader Helps Others Overcome Poverty through Livestock Development

The story of Mrs Ha Thi Hanh in Van Chan district, Yen Bai province, Vietnam



Mrs Ha Thi Hanh is a 43 year old Tay ethnic woman in Mo village, Thuong Bang La commune, Van Chan district, Yen Bai.

She explains her role in encouraging other people in her community to participate in livestock development groups supported by SDC: "Because PALD only provides technical assistance without any financial support, only a few households were participating in project activities in the beginning." But being a leader of the Commune's Women's Union (CWU), Mrs Hanh encouraged other members to participate in the project, and was able to explain how PALD would provide intensive technical support for farmers.

In 2006, both a pig-rearing farmer interest group (FIG) (consisting of 45 households raising 45 Mong Cai sows) and a chicken-rearing FIG (consisting of 30 households raising 1,700 chickens in total) were established in Thuong Bang La commune. As CWU chairwoman and leader of the groups, and through employing the knowledge gained from technical training courses organized by PALD, Mrs Hanh has regularly cooperated with project staff to monitor and advise beneficiary households on techniques in livestock production. Based on calculations at the end of the first production cycle, the sow-raising FIG members were able to earn 402,000 VND per month (nearly \$18) and the chicken-raising FIG members earned 493,000 VND (just over \$20) per month.



Mrs.Hanh consults a chicken-raising household in July 2012

In 2007, Mrs Hanh was hatching

between 500-1,000 chickens at a time to sell to other members of the farmers group who still had little experience in hatching chickens.

From 2008 to 2009 she raised 200 chickens per breeding cycle with three cycles per year which gave her an income of 5,200,000 VND to 5,500,000 VND (approximately \$230-240) every three and a half months. From 2010 up to now, with the experience and skills she has gained, she has regularly raised ten hens to supply herself with breeding chickens and been through five to six cycles of chickens for meat each year. She has a permanent income of around 1,500,000 VND (about \$65) per month from chicken production.

In May 2012, with knowledge gained from taking part in a training course on veterinary practices organized by PALD, she was able to begin to guide other households in the FIG on how to hatch chickens. While this work can result in a slight decline of her own income, the FIG members' capacities were strengthened through 'on-the-job' training.



Mrs Hanh takes care of her chickens (August, 2014)

"I feel pity for women in my village; they live in persistent poverty, working hard from morning to night but still their income does not even cover their expenses for meals, furniture and school fees for their children. So when PALD opened the training course, I decided to join immediately because I wanted to learn the techniques to transfer to other women in order to support them to enhance their income from livestock production," she said.

In 2014, Mrs Hanh received training on market access delivered by PALD, so she plans to raise 200-300 chickens to sell on the occasion of Lunar New Year - the time when she can get the highest price for her broilers. She commented, "The production technique is hard, but if we are careful, we can do it well. The problem is to know the market demands and develop production plans to sell at times of high market price. In addition, we work in groups, so I and some other members have to be responsible for finding buyers without price pressure."

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