

## PALD SUCCESS STORIES...

### ...Easing poverty through improved chicken-rearing techniques

#### The story of Mrs Nguyen Thi An, Yen Lap district, Phu Tho province, Vietnam

Mrs Nguyen Thi An is 55 years old and belongs to the Muong ethnic group. She lives in Zone 4 - Dong Xuan hamlet, Xuan Vien commune, Yen Lap district, Phu Tho. She is a member of the Women's Union and was introduced to PALD in June 2012. She learnt that the project provides technical support for livestock production and decided to participate in a backyard chicken farmer interest group (FIG). At that time, her family lived below the poverty line and although she was already rearing chickens she could not vaccinate them, so her stock had a high mortality rate and suffered annual epidemics.



*Mrs. An with her chicken flock, November 2014. © AVSF Vietnam.*

Her participation in the project meant that she received the technical know-how and hands-on training to be able to understand that certain techniques in livestock production and disease prevention are crucial. She invested in 100 chickens but unfortunately the local epidemics prevailed and as she was still improving her techniques on livestock production and disease prevention many chickens died. So after four and a half months, excluding the cost of feed, her profits were only 1,400,000 VND (just over \$60).

Despite these unfortunate initial results, she remained highly confident in her production technique and kept investing in more chickens in order to build on her experience. To date she has been through four cycles and the production size has increased gradually with each batch. In general, all batches have been effective: the second batch of 300 chickens brought in 16,374,000 VND (nearly \$720) and then the production size in the third and fourth batch grew to 400 and 500 chickens, increasing her income to 20,760,000 VND and 25,000,000 VND (over \$900 and nearly \$1100) respectively. She is now raising 300 chickens for sale on the occasion of Lunar New Year and her chickens are growing well. She and the other FIG members are going to buy chicks for the next production cycle. Through this improvement of skills and understanding in raising chickens her family has been helped out of poverty. Rearing chickens has become their main source of income.

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