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Recent Studies and Development of Ruminant Production in Lao PDR

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Overview

Agricultural, Forestry and Rural Development Plans

Strategic plans 2025 & Vision of the Agriculture Sector to the year 2030:

- Ensuring food security
- Producing comparative and competitive potential agricultural commodities
- Developing clean
- Safe and sustainable agriculture and shift gradually to the modernization of a resilient and productive agriculture economy
- Linking with rural development contributing to the national economic basis



Overview (Cont.)



Ruminant production: cattle, buffalo, goats, and sheep, forms an essential part of the agricultural economy and rural livelihood systems in Laos



Income



draught power



Meat consumption



Manure



Livestock sector makes up 45% of the total agricultural GDP, and ruminants make up almost 60% of the value of the livestock subsector.

Source: DLF (2024)

Overview (Cont.)

Livestock numbers have grown in recent years; the government targets livestock growth in Agri Strategy 2025.

National herd: 2.3 million as cattle, 1.1 million buffalo, and 0.9 million small ruminants (average growth rate of 3.2%) in 2024.

839 National farm:

- **Cattle= 709 farm (78,890heads)**
- **Buffalo= 41 farm (2,475heads)**
- **Goats= 89 farm (11,426heads)**

Source: DLF (2024)



Recent research-Large ruminants in Lao PDR

Animal managements: feed, Health, Production.....

- 1) **Disease Prevalence and Health Challenges** (Cattle & buffalo face health and disease challenges, especially FMD)
- 2) **Productivity and Reproduction Studies** (Reproductive performance is low but improvable with interventions (training, nutrition))
- 3) **Nutrition & Production Systems** (Nutrition supplementation shows positive impacts on growth and parasite control)
- 4) **Value Chain & Market Systems Context** (Surveillance systems (abattoir-based) are being developed to monitor diseases and guide interventions))



Small ruminants (goats) in Lao PDR

- 1) **Goat Value Chain & Market Dynamics** (most goats marketed informally to Vietnam and income benefits along the chain)
- 2) **Smallholder Goat Management and Productivity** (contributes significantly to household livelihoods and presents opportunities for productivity gains through improved management)
- 3) **Extension & Improved Management Practices** (helping farmers adopt better feeding and health care practices))
- 4) **Disease Surveillance & Health Risks** (Q-fever and Brucellosis, and goat populations may be susceptible to PPR, highlighting needs for ongoing monitoring and potential control strategies)



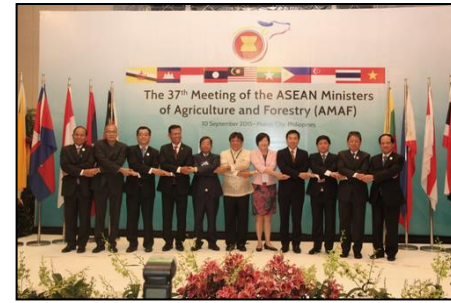
Key challenges

- **Animal health & transboundary disease risks (limited surveillance and movement controls)**
- **Low productivity due to genetics, feed quality, and limited extension services**
- **Market constraints (poor value-chain links, standards, and infrastructure for export-grade products)**
- **Climate vulnerability and greenhouse gas accounting needs for sustainable livestock growth**



Opportunities & innovations

- Value-chain development targeting goats and beef exports to neighboring markets (Vietnam, Thailand, China)
- Village-level biosecurity and whole-of-village approaches for FMD and other diseases
- Improved feed technologies, breed improvement, and climate-smart livestock practices (enteric methane initiatives)
- Strengthening AMR/AMU surveillance and building Tier-2 GHG emissions capacity



Development programs & policy

- ✓ **FAO projects supporting livestock climate action, AMR surveillance, and capacity building (2023–2025)**
- ✓ **National Agricultural Development Strategy 2025 includes livestock growth targets and value-chain development**
- ✓ **Donor-funded projects (ACIAR, NZCSA, REP program, etc.) support biosecurity, village-level interventions, and emissions accounting**

Further plan (policy & practice)

- Invest in community-level extension and veterinary services; establish zonal disease surveillance**
- Target goat and cattle productivity improvements (nutrition, breeding) alongside market linkages**
- Support private sector-led value chains with standards, cold-chain and market information**
- Integrate climate mitigation and AMR surveillance into livestock development plans**

**Thanks for your
attention**

