

Shifting from live bird markets to slaughterhouses to mitigate risk for avian influenza



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INTRODUCTION

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was first detected in Viet Nam in late 2003.
- Live bird markets (LBMs) facilitate the transmission and spread of zoonotic avian influenza (AI) to both human and birds.
- Qualitative study on opinions of traders has shown that LBM closure are not likely to reduce the threat of H7N9.
- Ho Chi Minh city (HCMC) has successfully shifted from selling chickens in LBMs to only sell poultry slaughtered in SHs.
- The case of HCMC has been studied in detail to provide evidence-based recommendations to policy makers.

OBJECTIVE

- To document the process how HCMC has successfully shifted from LBMs to only sell slaughtered poultry and identify lessons learned.

METHODOLOGY

- The survey was carried out in October 2014.
- Review government official documents related to the shift from LBMs to slaughterhouses (SHs) in HCMC.
- Two focus group discussions with 15 veterinary officers.
- Interview 46 poultry traders, SH owners, inter-sectorial regulation enforcement team and market management board members.
- Visit 5 markets, 3 supermarkets, wholesale shops/ distribution centers of poultry carcasses and SHs.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- The shifting from LBMs to SHs in HCMC consists in four phases:

| Transformation | Inception period December 2003- 2004 | Buffer period 2005-2006 | Development period 2007-2010 | Final period 2011-2015 |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Number of LBMs | 212 | 72 in outskirts | 0 | 0 |
| Number of slaughter points | 4000 | 57 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of industrial SHs | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 in HCMC and 4 in neighboring provinces |
| Live poultry trade situation | Live poultry sell freely → Live poultry trade forbidden | Sell live poultry in limited areas with certain conditions | Live poultry trading was banned both inside and outskirts | Forbidden, no live poultry |
| Policy | - Regulated the organization of poultry trade and slaughter: ✓ Banned selling live poultry in city center; ✓ Published list of 72 eligible LBMs. | - Launched master plan on SHs development by 2010; - Applied stepwise approach to stop selling live poultry; - Announced list of slaughter points allowed to operate each year. | - Implemented master plan on SHs; - Issued other plans for markets, supermarkets and business center. | - Approved plan of SH development in city from 2011-2015. |
| Enforcement | - Established inter-sectorial regulation enforcement teams in concentrated live bird trading areas and main roads. | - Set up and maintained 4 regulation enforcement teams at city level; 24 teams at district level and every communes; - City's People Committee supported 1,5 million USD per year for enforcement. | - Maintained inter-sectorial regulation enforcement teams at city and district level. | - Maintained. |
| Other support | - Financial support during Tet 2004 for small-scale slaughter houses. | - Build 3 SHs including semi-industrial SH for slaughter point owners renting; - Buy poultry from non-AI areas to slaughter and frozen; - Job training for slaughter point workers/ owners. | - Support for unemployment, loan interest support, job training for slaughter staff. | - Build 2 large scale SHs. |

CONCLUSION

The key success factors of this shift include:

- Strong political and financial support from City's People Committee. The activity proposed and coordinated by SDAH with active participation of Department of Industrial and Trade, the police, Department of Health, mass organization and local authorities.
- The collaboration of the surrounding, poultry supply provinces.
- Use AI as a motive to shift from LBMs to SHs.
- AI outbreaks occurred seriously in 2004 – temporary ban selling live poultry achieved good compliance. Further actions and decisions started from a situation: selling live poultry was forbidden to selling poultry was allowed at certain restricted conditions – positive development and lead to comply.
- The establishment of Inter-sectorial teams at city, district and commune level.
- A long term strategy in line with the local masterplans, include clear plans, guidance, land allocation and communication.
- Dialogue and collaboration between public and private sector.
- Massive and regular communication to private stakeholders and the consumers.



Baseline: Live Bird Market



Baseline: slaughter point



Industrial slaughter point

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