

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY VIENTIANE



Australian research project helps improve pig management in Phongsaly

Smallholder pig producers in northern Laos are being assisted to improve their pig producing systems through a research project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in collaboration with the Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The four year project, underway since late 2010, aims to bring financial benefits to communities who depend on livestock, and the Lao economy, by increasing productivity and reducing mortality of pigs. The focus of the work is on introducing more nutritious feeding and improving breeding and management, such as raising pigs in pens and taking steps to prevent disease.

A project review recently held in Laos heard that the participating farmers in Mai district in Phongsay are on the way to adopting some of these approaches, according to officials from the Livestock Research Center (LRC) of the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Center. A project survey showed that livestock are one of the main sources of income for rural farmers, with smallholders in Sophoun village making almost 35% of cash incomes from their pigs. These rural villagers are now aware of the importance of providing supplementary forage, a pen-based water supply system, and vaccinations in helping their animals fatten in a shorter time.

Along with animal health, production and marketing, the project is also addressing issues of human health in an integrated way. Both components are commissioned by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia, and its Lao collaborating partners, the DLF, LRC, and Department of Hygiene and Disease Prevention.



For more information
please contact:

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

C/o: Australian Embassy, Vientiane

Tel.: +856 21 353800