

## PALD SUCCESS STORIES...

### **...An excellent pig producer and a dynamic member of the Communal Women's Union (CWU)**

**The story of Mrs Nguyen Thi Thuy Nguyet, Yen Lap district, Phu Tho province, Vietnam**

Mrs Nguyen Thi Thuy Nguyet is 50 years old and is of the Muong ethnic minority. She is Chairwoman of Luong Xuan CWU, living in Xuan Tan zone, Luong Son commune, Yen Lap district, Phu Tho and has participated in the PALD project since August 2011.

When she joined the project, her family was recognized as a near-poor household because of its limited farming area and also owing to the fact that her children were of school age. When the project was implemented in Yen Lap, she suggested the other members in the CWU form chicken farmer interest groups (FIGs). In the first production cycle, each of them raised 50 chickens. The results were very fruitful, with a high survival rate, so they scaled up to 100 chickens in the next cycle and gained a profit of more than 3,500,000 VND (just over \$150).



*Mrs. Nguyet with her chickens, November 2014. © AVSF Vietnam.*

In December 2012, encouraged by the project and acknowledging the high demand for breeding piglets locally, her FIGs changed to raising Mong Cai sows. At first, Nguyet chose to rear only one. Through a thorough understanding of production techniques from trainings delivered by PALD, she raised her sow successfully. It gives two and a half litters per year, weaning 10-12 piglets per litter. When 25 days to a month old, piglets are weaned and isolated from their mother in order to prepare for the sow's next mating season. Grasping the needs of consumers, she invested in raising a forest boar to cross breed with the Mong Cai sow, resulting in crossed piglets. The prices of forest crossbred pigs can sometimes range from 80,000 - 120,000 VND (about \$3.5 to over \$5) per live kilo. Besides raising pigs, she also raises 50-100 chickens per year.



*Mrs. Nguyet with her sow and piglets in November 2014. © AVSF Vietnam.*

Currently she raises three other sows, giving her four in total, so she regularly has 35-40 pigs at any given time. After deducting the input cost, her family makes 60-70,000,000 VND (over \$2600-3050) per year from pig production, improving her household economic status significantly. This is a successful case for other CWU members to learn from and to follow in her footsteps of animal husbandry, thereby raising household income and contributing to poverty alleviation in Luong Son commune.