

PALD SUCCESS STORIES...

...Relieving poverty through building experience in pig farming

The story of Mrs. Pham Thi Van in Yen Lap district, Phu Tho province, Vietnam.



Mrs. Pham Thi Van, Luong Son commune, Yen Lap district, Phu Tho province, Vietnam.
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Mrs Pham Thi Van is 43 years old, of Muong ethnicity, and lives in Son Tinh zone, Luong Son commune, Yen Lap district, Phu Tho. She has participated in PALD since December 2011. Before joining the project, without any techniques on sow breeding, she used routine methods which had a negative influence on the weaning mortality rate and resulted in diseases in her sows and piglets.

She said, "Initially, in spite of hearing that the project only provided technical support rather than monetary grants, I decided to join a sow farmer interest group (FIG) in Luong Son commune under the PALD project to gain awareness of the importance of a comprehensive understanding in pig rearing and disease prevention techniques. Through participating in the group, I received training on selecting breeds, making pig housings, caring for and nurturing gilts and farrowing sows, weaning piglets and treating common pig diseases, as well as being accompanied by FIG's representative and project staff who helped to buy good breeds in the guaranteed breeding center in Quang Ninh province."

She was able to apply these techniques and her Mong Cai sows gave birth well - each sow can farrow 12 piglets per litter on average - and 11 of hers were still alive after weaning (the piglets were weaned at one month). When she first began participating in the project in 2012 she had only one sow, and she is now raising two sows and one gilt (a gilt is young female swine who has not yet farrowed). Currently, her family are raising both breeding sows and finishing pigs. Some of the piglets they produce are sold to other farmers, destined to be breeding sows, while some are raised to be finished (that is, sold to the market for meat). Her family's annual profit from pig production is 15-20,000,000 VND (approximately \$650-875).



Mrs. Van with her sows, November 2014.
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*Mrs. Van with her chicken flock, November 2014.
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In addition, she is investing in raising more chickens; her flocks of 30 day old chickens also grow well.

"I will continue raising pigs because rural farmers can earn a living by livestock production and agricultural farming. However farming work is too hard and frankly it is difficult to make a profit from it without real expertise. Therefore, the project should continue to provide more support, especially new techniques and good practices, so that we can apply them in livestock production, improving our livelihoods and leading to sustainable poverty reduction," she said.

Within her sow FIG in the commune, 23 members have been showing good results in raising pig herds, especially since the characteristics of local breeding sow were improved. The pure Mong Cai sows can be crossbred with foreign boars to farrow the first generation sows which are then more easily tamed, and better qualified and suited to meet the consumption demands in the region.

Learn more: [Factsheet on PALD](#)