



Curricula and Capacity Development of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Royal University of Agriculture

Background

In Cambodia, 80 percent of farmers have livestock, be it chickens, ducks, cattle or pigs, but the animal husbandry methods are antiquated and the productivity is low. A thriving livestock sector has the potential to contribute to poverty alleviation, food security and income generation. The national economy would also benefit by reducing the country's dependency on imports from neighbouring countries.

Cambodia's cattle numbers have increased from 2.5 million to 3.5 million in the last 20 years and poultry have more than doubled to 20 million. In contrast, pig numbers peaked at 2.7 million in 2006 and have since declined due to low prices, high feed costs, illegal imports and disease. Globalization and climate change create new threats for the prevention of animal diseases, with pests likely to spread at an increasing pace and enter new regions, thus negatively impacting food supply.

For the potential of the livestock sector to be realized, the challenge of animal production and health must be addressed. In this regard, the Royal Government of Cambodia in 2013 endorsed the establishment of two separate faculties in the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA): the new Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM) and the Faculty of Animal Science (FAS).



Since the FVM was recently created, it is facing many problems such as a weak curriculum compared to international standards, limited teaching capacity of faculty staff, a shortage of learning materials and other academic and scientific information related to animal health for use by students, and limitations for actual veterinary practice. The RGC recognized that assistance is needed to address these challenges.





challenges and develop the capacity development programme required.

The university will be linked with relevant institutions, both nationally and abroad. Internationally, a faculty exchange programme will be organized between FVM and the College of Veterinary Medicine of the University of the Philippines, as well as universities in Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam. In-country, efforts will be made to create an internship programme for students to provide them with real-life experiences.

A limited quantity of the teaching materials and materials for establishing an on-campus veterinary clinic links will be provide and contacts will be established with providers to ensure that a sustainable source of up to date supplies is secured.



Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Starting in October 2014, FAO has been supporting RUA to address these challenges through a project entitled “Curricula and capacity development of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Royal University of Agriculture” with a budget of USD 185 000 funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme.

Project Outputs and Outcomes

The objective of the project is to strengthen the teaching capacity of FVM, so that students of the FVM leave the faculty as qualified Doctors of Veterinary Medicine with the right level of knowledge and practical experience.

Enhancing veterinary education at the university requires assistance on multiple levels, including the capacity of the faculty staff, the infrastructure and resources. It needs constant exchange of teaching methodologies with other countries and constant exposure of students to actual practice. Once capacitated, the FVM will produce well-trained and experienced veterinarians, with the capacity to manage animal breeding, nutrition and husbandry, to prevent and control animal diseases, and to reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases.

The existing curriculum is being reviewed to ensure its alignment with international best practices and the capacity of the faculty staff to deliver the curriculum is assessed in order to identify the main gaps and

