

## **ECTAD Viet Nam's Capacity Building**

An important area of collaboration between FAO ECTAD Viet Nam and the Government of Viet Nam in the fight against HPAI H5N1 has been building national technical capacity in epidemiology, biosecurity, hatchery management, and laboratory diagnostics. ECTAD Viet Nam's efforts have strengthened the competence and capability of Viet Nam's Department of Animal Health, regional animal health offices and sub-department levels in understanding, detecting, diagnosing and controlling the virus.

### **Epidemiological capacity**

The Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (AVET) Program was initiated to improve the epidemiology and field investigation skills of veterinarians. The three-week training focuses on improving knowledge, skills and competencies of the national animal disease prevention and control program in epidemiology, monitoring and surveillance, sampling methods, outbreak investigations, public health, descriptive statistics, communication and scientific writing, as well as six weeks of field work on an important provincial disease issue. To date, 160 national and regional epidemiologists from the regional and provincial animal health sub-departments, research institutes and universities, have been trained. Recently, the AVET Program has added a One Health Module entitled. Wildlife investigations in livestock disease and public health bring together veterinarians, media, wildlife biologists, and ecologists for multi-disciplinary coursework and field activities.

The AVET program has significantly improved the field epidemiology skills of government veterinarians. Lessons learned from the management of HPAI H5N1 have been applied to other infectious diseases of livestock including FMD, rabies and porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS).