Regional symposium on research into smallholder pig production, health and pork safety

Hanoi, Vietnam
27-29 March 2019

Background
The smallholder pig industry plays an important role in many countries of South and Southeast Asia though the development of the pig sector differs between countries. Consequently, the research focus also differs between countries. In Timor-Leste, for example, the key research objective is to develop practical husbandry practices to improve pig nutrition and other basic needs, whereas in Vietnam the pig sector is much more developed and research to produce safer pork for the market is dominant.

To address the issue, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the University of Queensland, Australia supported by Launch Funding from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) are organizing a regional symposium on research into smallholder pig production, health, and pork safety. The symposium will be held in Vietnam from 27-29 March 2019.

The overall aim of the symposium is to present and discuss research on improving the smallholder pig sector through proven concepts that are sustainable and use holistic approaches.

Objectives
The symposium aims to:

- Share experiences and challenges in research on smallholder pig health, production and pork safety;
- Discuss and explore gender aspects in pig and pork production;
- Facilitate inter-country and intra-country networks on pig research including the South-South exchange;

Symposium structure
The symposium will be comprised of several sessions. In addition, a field day will be organized. Sessions will be on the following key topics:

- Pig nutrition/husbandry;
- Pig health and improved diagnostics;
- Zoonoses and food safety including antimicrobial resistance (AMR);
- Social science, gender and equity in the pig value chain;
- Developing a sustainable, affordable, welfare-friendly and safe smallholder pig value chain interventions, successes and challenges related to the above topics.

Each session will basically have a key note by an expert in the field giving a general talk on the session topic followed by presentations by country participants on relevant research from their work. In addition, poster sessions will be organized around the given topics. Group sessions or panel discussions may also be incorporated.

The field day will include visits to the pig producers, pig slaughterhouses and markets selling pork involved in on-going Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) funded activities in Vietnam. This will include spots with applied interventions, for example, VietGAHP or hygienic improvements. Time will be allocated for interactive discussion with value chain actors.

Expected range of participants
Participants will be associated with ACIAR-funded projects based in some or all of the following countries: Vietnam, Philippines, Timor-Leste, Laos and Indonesia, along with participants affiliated with other regional developing country research and development organizations or the private sector. In addition, under South-South exchange we expect to have selected participants from ILRI-related pig research projects in Kenya and/or Uganda.

How can you join?
A call for abstracts has been announced. Some participants from targeted countries and ACIAR-related research will receive travel support from the ACIAR launch fund.

If you would like to express your interest please email Ms. Thanh Nguyen, ILRI Hanoi at t.l.nguyen@cgiar.org

ILRI thanks all donors and organizations which globally support its work through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund.