

Animal slaughter, wet markets and food safety in the context of rapid economic transformation: how can Vietnam make animal slaughter safer?

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Introduction

- The Government of Vietnam has been trying to develop industrial and modern animal slaughterhouses
- Prompted by the Avian Influenza outbreaks since 2004
- In their view, industrialized slaughter = food safety
- Yet, the enacted policies have, so far, had limited impact
- The first set of policies was developed in 2005

Poultry slaughter facilities in 2019

Location	Slaughter plants	Semi-industrial SHs	Manual SHs (registered)
National-level	13	83	547
Provincial			
Hanoi	3	12	33
Hai Duong	0	0	19
Bac Ninh	1	0	2

Methods and results

- Methods

- Policy documents review
- Key informant interviews (a total of 103 interviews)
- Qualitative data analysis

- Results

- Competing priorities at the provincial level: Different ministries and departments within ministries have different priorities that are sometimes creating tensions at the ground-level
- Land usage rights and investment in slaughterhouse/center development: the tensions and competing priorities translate to ambiguous and unpredictable land usage rights → slaughterhouse owners are unwilling to make long-term investment
- Consumer preferences and perceptions: white chickens are cheaper, but people prefer coloured chickens because of perceived safety
- Small-scale slaughtering is an easily accessible livelihood options for many: women, small-scale livestock farmers, small-scale agricultural producers, etc.

Discussion and recommendations

- Unrealistic to aim to replace small-scale slaughterers with large-scale slaughterhouses
- Could focus on improving wet market hygiene, and monitor and supervise animal slaughtering practices in market places
- Expand the use of slaughter centres instead of investing in large-scale slaughterhouses
- Could focus on improving wet market hygiene, and monitor and supervise animal slaughtering practices in market places