



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded in 1924



15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Upper Mekong Working Group  
on Foot and Mouth Disease Zoning and Animal  
Movement Management

*Livestock trade in South-East Asia :  
Opportunities and Challenges*

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Capacity building coordinator*

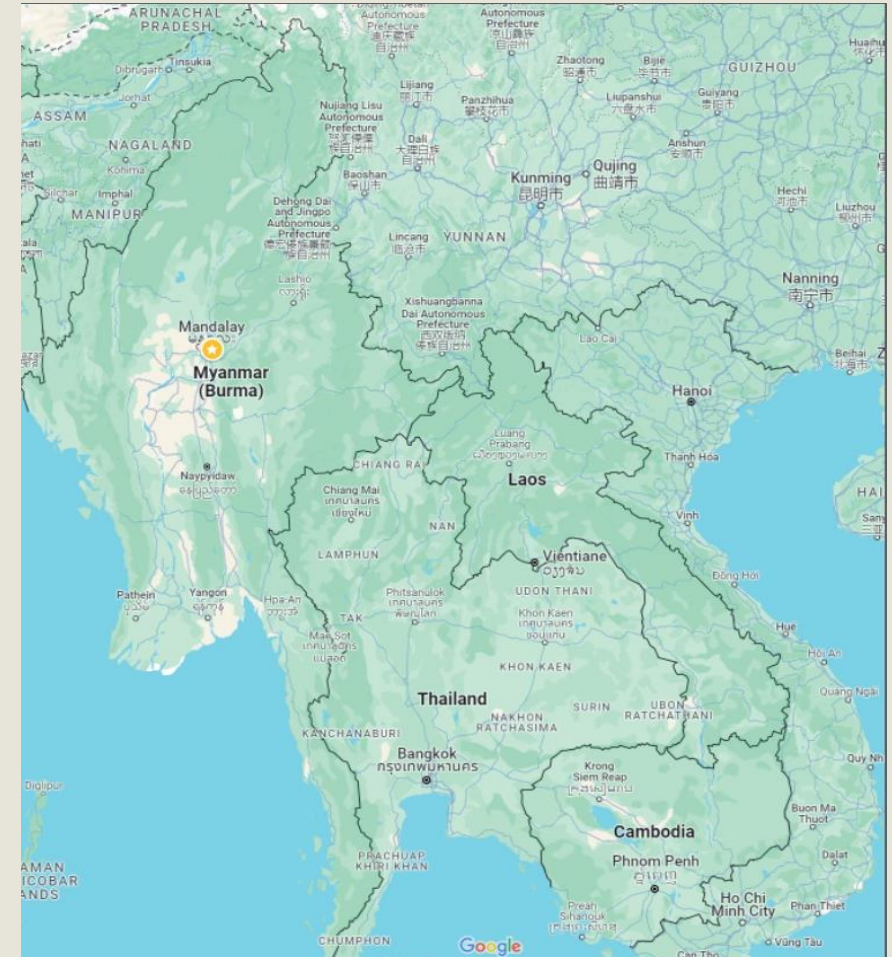


*24-26 April 2024,  
Luang Namtha, Lao PDR*

- Livestock trade in South- East Asia : WOAH initiatives through Upper Mekong Working Group
- Opportunities
- Challenges
- Discussions



- Livestock contributes more than 20% of value added across Southeast Asia
- Smallholder farms (< 2 ha) account for more than a quarter of total livestock production in Southeast Asia with the average smallholder keeping a small number of animals.
- The Upper Mekong Working Group (UMWG), including representatives from the Veterinary Services of Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Vietnam and China, has been a major driver promoting development of safe livestock trade and strengthening FMD control.



## Movement pathways and market chains (2015)



### Movement pathways and market chains of large ruminants in the Greater Mekong Sub-region

FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PR CHINA AND AUSTRALIAN STANDZ INITIATIVE

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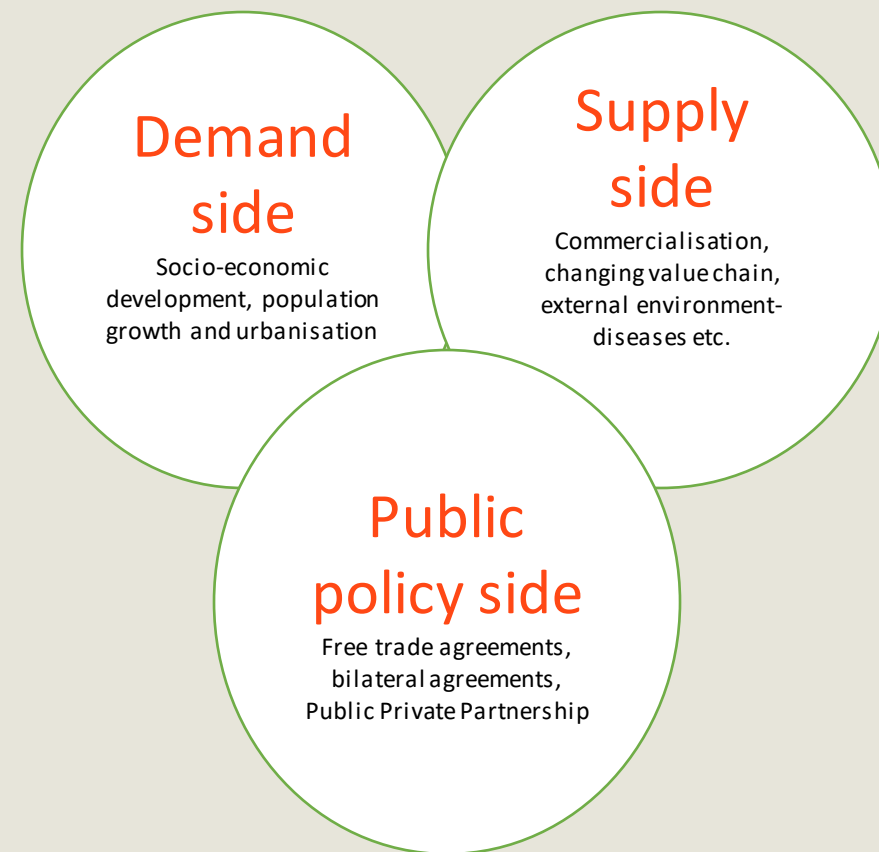
## Traders Incentive study (2020)

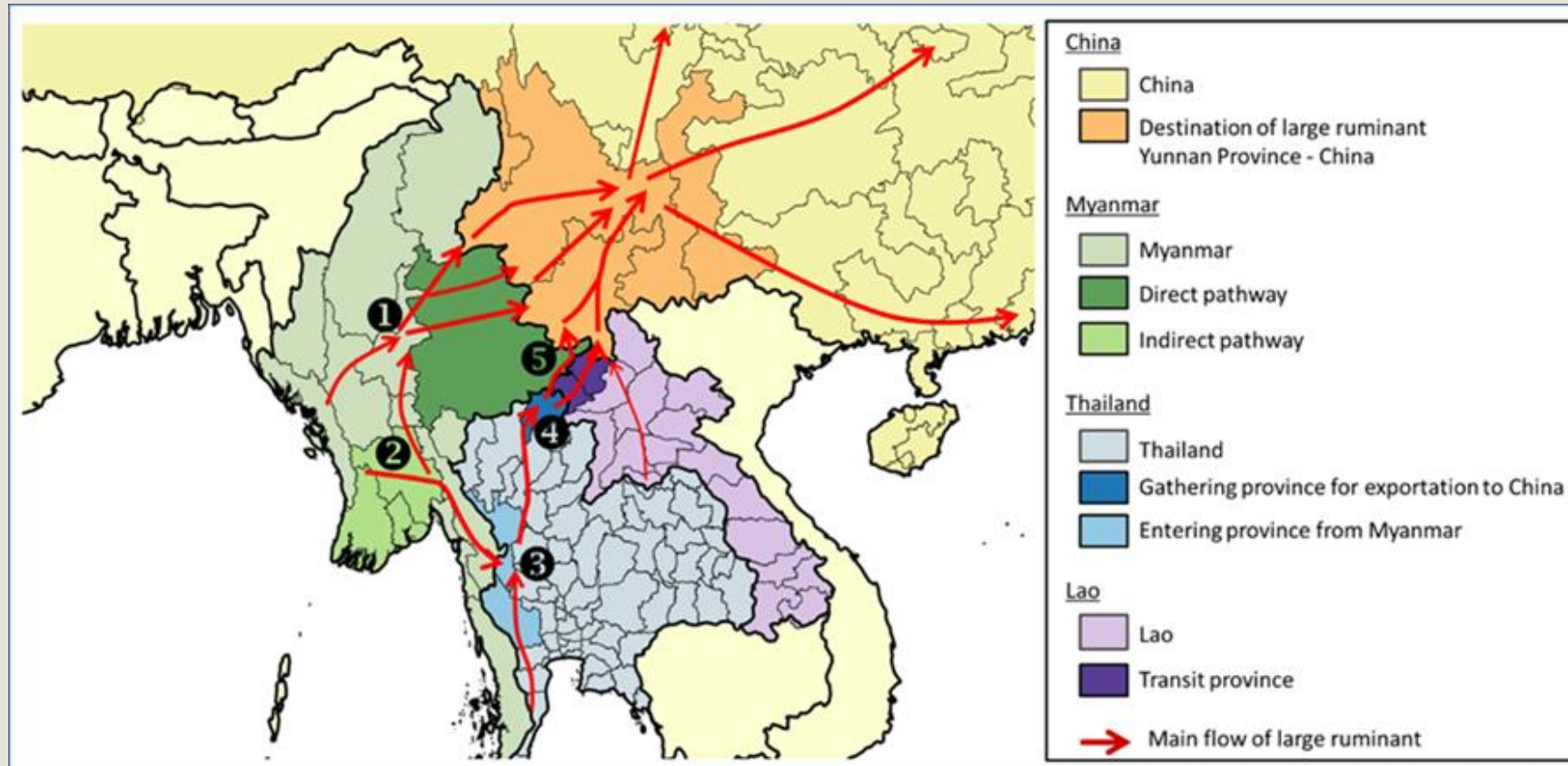
### Traders Incentive Study to Facilitate Safe Livestock Trade in Upper-Mekong Sub-Region



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- The widespread movement of large ruminants throughout South-East Asia and China has been extensively documented (Smith et al., 2017, Smith et al., 2015, Poolkhet et al., 2016, Shen et al., 2019, ADB, 2015, FAO, 2013)
- Market analysis conducted found that the price of livestock (US\$ per kg liveweight) tripled across markets in SE Asia and China, from \$1.10 in Myanmar up to \$3.60 and \$4.00 in China and Vietnam respectively. (Smith et al 2015)
- Drivers : Demand side, supply side and public policy side
- It was estimated that approximately 1 million large ruminants were entering China from SE Asia each year ((Smith et al., 2015)





Flow of large ruminant in South-East Asia

Animals are traded from Myanmar directly into China, or through Thailand and Laos to China and Vietnam. Thailand has become a transit country for animals crossing its border with Myanmar, but also serves as a source country for heavier stock destined for China and Vietnam. Laos is a major transit country, although some animals from southern Laos may also be traded to China and Vietnam. (Traders Incentive Study to Facilitate Safe Livestock Trade in Upper-Mekong Sub-Region 2020)

Extensive network of traders,  
transporters, markets



# Export of Livestock volume amongst Upper Mekong Region



Cattle volume



Small ruminant volume



Swine volume

Lao PDR

650 heads to China and 2590 heads to Vietnam (year 2023)

34 heads to Vietnam, and 70 heads to Thailand (year2023)

3416 heads to Thailand and 1179 heads to Vietnam (year2023)

Myanmar

12190 heads to Thailand (year 2021-22)

1000 heads to Laos (year 2021-22)

Nil (year 2021-22)

Thailand

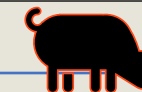
42161 heads to Laos and 3943 heads to Vietnam (year 2023)

Export to Lao PDR 205217 heads (year 2023)

41170 heads to Laos, 87625 heads to Myanmar (year 2023)



# Imports of Livestock volume amongst Upper Mekong Region



Cattle  
volume

Small  
ruminant  
volume

Swine  
volume

**Lao PDR**

82 heads from Thailand  
(year 2023)

50 heads from China, 814  
heads from Thailand and  
616 heads from Vietnam  
(year2023)

2672 heads from Thailand  
and 35 heads from Vietnam  
(year2023)

**Myanmar**

Nil

Nil

915 Heads of from Thailand  
(year 2023)

**Thailand**

Live cattle import from  
Myanmar: 48520 heads  
(year 2023)

Import of 27785 heads from  
Myanmar (year 2023)

Nil

**China**

Live cattle import from Laos  
: 584 heads (year 2023)

Do not know

Do not know





- Large ruminants moved vast distances across the region to reach the high value markets (China and Vietnam) highlighting the importance of **whole-of-region disease control programs** where live animals, and thus livestock diseases, spread across the region irrespective of national boundaries >>>> **development of criteria and protocols to support the movement of animals of an appropriate health status that minimises the risk of dissemination of disease.**
- Much of the cross-border movement that occurred throughout the region, at the time of this study, was unofficial and without regulation need for improved control of animal movement, >>>>**identification and methods of ensuring and documenting vaccination against FMD in animals being moved. While it is necessary to improve regulation and control of animal movements.**
- Implementing strict controls at borders without the support of traders, could result in alternative, unofficial movement routes being used to circumvent the official and regulated pathways >>>>> **Stakeholder consultation to formulate livestock movement regulation.**



- Livestock trading patterns will continue to change in the future and be shaped by >>>>The information gathered from this study will need to be reviewed periodically in order to assess these changes.
    - currency exchange rates;
    - changes in policy and regulation
    - changing sources of livestock brought into the region or
    - changes in the volume of livestock from existing sources; economic development within the region (potentially resulting in changing dietary preferences); and
    - changes in livestock production systems.
- >>>More investigation into methods for regular data collection which could help to follow changes in livestock movement patterns should be considered.
- >>>Using information about prices to predict livestock movement patterns was previously investigated under the ACIAR project on Understanding Livestock Movements (ACIAR, 2011).

- More investigation into methods for regular data collection which could help to follow changes in livestock movement patterns should be considered.
- Using information about prices to predict livestock movement patterns was previously investigated under the ACIAR project on Understanding Livestock Movements (ACIAR, 2011).
- Considering that stakeholders working within the trade have continued to operate through changes in the movement pathways and have adjusted their trading patterns to suit current demands. >>>identifying traders operating within the livestock trade pathways could have a more enduring benefit. This could be particularly useful where **dialogue is established between large-scale traders and government authorities** in an attempt to explore measures to reduce the risk of disease spread through trade movements

*Movement pathways and market chain of large ruminants in GMS (P. Smith et al \_2015)*

- **Government-government consultation :**
  - Competent authorities can develop and maintain eligibility for any of the **export/import requirements** that operate at these international borders.
  - Transferability of animal **identification/traceability and vaccination information**, to avoid the costly and inefficient duplication of procedures .
  - **Review intra-national movement protocols** to regulate livestock movement, **based on appropriate management of risks.**
  - **The movement of large ruminants that include vaccination for FMD and animal identification** will contribute significantly to a regional reduction in the **incidence and spread of FMD.**
- **Industry consultation :**
  - **Consultation and information-sharing with traders** in the UMR
  - **Clear explanation to traders** of the import requirements and their rationale, including how they address trader concerns to improve acceptability and compliance by traders.
  - **Traders' knowledge of the industry** can be captured and utilised by VS to ensure that official procedures are simple yet effective and promote compliance.
  - **The trade incentives for small and middle traders** should be taken into account during industry consultation.
  - **Work with traders to identify and shut down unofficial checkpoints** and charges that may limit animal movements.
- **Cost sharing :**
  - VS should explore opportunities to provide
    - **vaccination**
    - **animal identification and traceability,**
    - **regulation of movement**
    - **import/export certification**

on a cost-recovered basis, to livestock owners and traders to support sustainable animal movement management and disease control activities.

- Regional animal movement studies :  
Understanding the value chain and Epidemiology, risk pathways
- Infrastructure and logistics for FMD control zones
- Animal Price Monitoring , Market prices
- Government to government consultation
- Industry consultation
- Cost sharing /PPP : Vaccination, biosecurity ,animal identification



- Southeast Asia is a hot spot for emerging infectious diseases of zoonotic origin. This results from a confluence of biophysical, climatic, socioeconomic, and agricultural factors
- Disease Outbreaks : e.g Avian Influenza, Africa Swine Fever , Lumpy Skin Disease, and COVID-19.
- Informal animal movement
- Trade barriers
- Market fluctuation



# Thank you

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