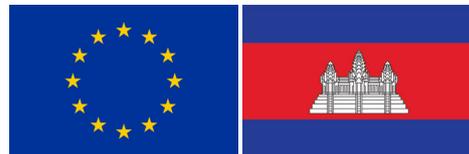


VETERINARY SPECIALIST ON ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

KAMPONG CHHNANG PROVINCE



FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



Heng Makara checking semen before it is used for artificial insemination for local pig farmers.

“ I want to have animal rearing in Cambodia improved so it is comparable to the countries who export their technology to us. I want our country to be like them — Heng Makara ”

For vet Heng Makara, the introduction of artificial insemination has brought a number of improvements for Cambodian farmers.

Makara works for the Kampong Chhnang provincial office of animal health and production, specialising in the artificial insemination of pigs.

He has seen an increased number of pigs born through the process as pregnancy rates have improved. Pigs are also

growing bigger faster.

“We have demonstrated artificial insemination to pig farmers very often, as part of wider efforts to spread information about modern farming techniques to farmers in the villages,” he explains.

The insemination programme forms part of a wide-ranging European Union-funded project covering agricultural activities in Cambodia. In addition to his work with pigs,

Makara has also demonstrated how to grow higher-yielding grass varieties and farm chicken more efficiently, all of which now form part of his everyday role as a government vet.

“Usually, when they want to take sperm or use our service, we will teach them how to do it and even help them to better identify when a sow is ready for breeding,” he says, explaining how he demonstrates the procedure with farmers on their

own animals so that they will gain a better understanding of the process.

“If we carry out the artificial insemination for his [the farmer’s] pigs then it won’t be any better than the natural method, as he has much better knowledge about the breeding patterns of his animals. We are not as close to them as he is.”

In order for farmers across Cambodia to truly benefit, Makara insists that they must commit to raising animals all year round – not just when market prices are most profitable, such as during religious festivals, as many currently do.

“Raising pigs by artificial

insemination is the best method, providing many benefits such as reducing infections; a sow will not be affected and will breed well as long as it has good breeding stock.”

“Since we started using the artificial insemination method, people have found they don’t need to spend much money on breeding, and they can also save time,” he says.

In the past, stud pigs were used to inseminate sows, and prime studs commanded high premiums. There was no guarantee that insemination would be successful, however, meaning that farmers sometimes had to hire a stud multiple times – an expense

they now avoid.

Artificial insemination has proven popular; Makara has worked with more than 100 families in the province, of which about 70 have decided to adopt the process, and they have all been very happy.

Makara, however, has much loftier goals for modernising Cambodian farming.

“I want to have animal rearing in Cambodia improved so it is comparable to the countries who export their technology to us. I want our country to be like them.”



Heng Makara, an official at the Kampong Chhnang Provincial Office of Animal Health and Production.