## International Symposium on 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of Veterinary Public Health Centre for Asia Pacific

# Telephonic Trading Systems for Smallholder Livestock: Opportunities and Challenges for Technology Adoption

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A Collaborative Research Project Funded by:



Implemented by:





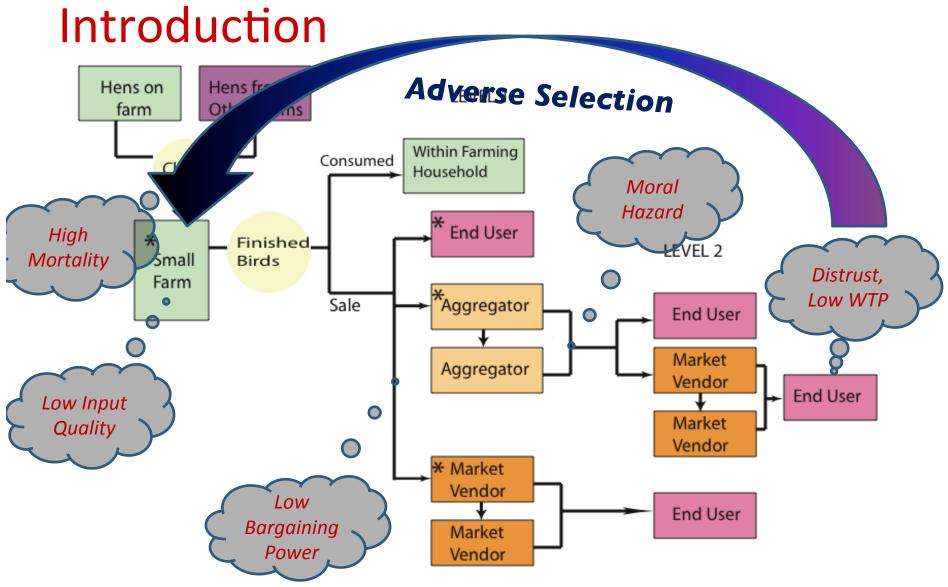


## **Outline of Presentation**

- Introduction
- Material and Methods
- Results
- Discussion and Conclusion

## Introduction

- Informal nature of indigenous poultry supply chain suffers from extreme inefficiency.
- Current system relies on middlemen traveling from farm to farm picking up chickens to deliver to market.
- This pilot project (eBird) used simple mobile phone technology (SMS text messaging and interactive voice response menus) to connect rural farmers with market vendors in the surrounding areas of Chiang Mai.

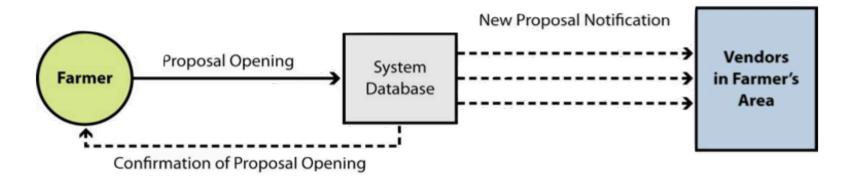


<sup>\*</sup> May be the party that slaugthers the bird

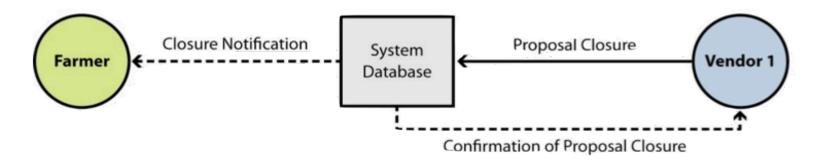
### eBird schematics:

- Farmer wants to sell chicken.
- Sends SMS with relevant information (# of chickens, weight, type, price, etc.) to system phone number.
- Alternatively farmers could call number and enter information via interactive voice response system.
- Proposal is then sent to vendors who can choose to accept or decline, which closes transaction.
- Following closure of proposal, team member would pay for bundle and deliver birds to vendor.

#### **Proposal Opening**

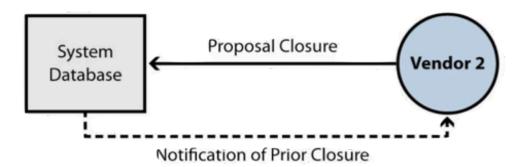


#### **Successful Proposal Closure**



#### Attempted Closure by a Second Vendor





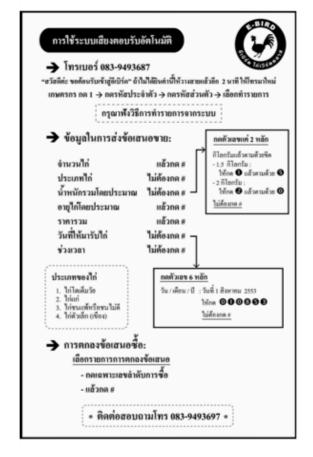
#### **Proposal Expiration\***



\* Proposals will automatically expire if they are not accepted within 2 days of opening

- Initial surveys were conducted to tailor the system to local needs and identify areas of potential candidates.
- Survey team then registered and trained farmers.
- eBird users were given a laminated instruction sheet and wallet sized ID card.

#### Farmer Instruction Sheet



Interactive Voice Response System Instructions



Text Messaging System Instructions

#### Wallet Size Farmer ID Cards

Front Back

บัตรประจำตัวเกษตรกร
ชื่อ ทรงยศ ชัยวงศ์
รหัสประจำตัว (FID): 2
รหัสส่วนตัว: 123



- Vendors were most receptive to eBird, given their large demand for native chickens.
- Farmer adaptation was difficult:
  - Believed system would be unpractical and would not exist in long term.
- Variety of incentives were introduced to increase use:
  - Feed.
  - Vaccinations.

- Start: November 1, 2010.
- End: April 9, 2011 (160 days).
- 96 Transactions completed, with 373 birds traded.
- 328 farmers and 8 vendors participated.

## Table 1: Summary of Transactions

	Number of Transactions	Number of Chickens	Weight of Bundle (KG)	Price (THB)	THB/KG
TOTALS	96	373	400.2	30,486	-
AVERAGES	-	3.89	4.17	317.6	75.43

Figure 1: Number of Weekly Transactions (11/1/2010 – 4/9/2011)

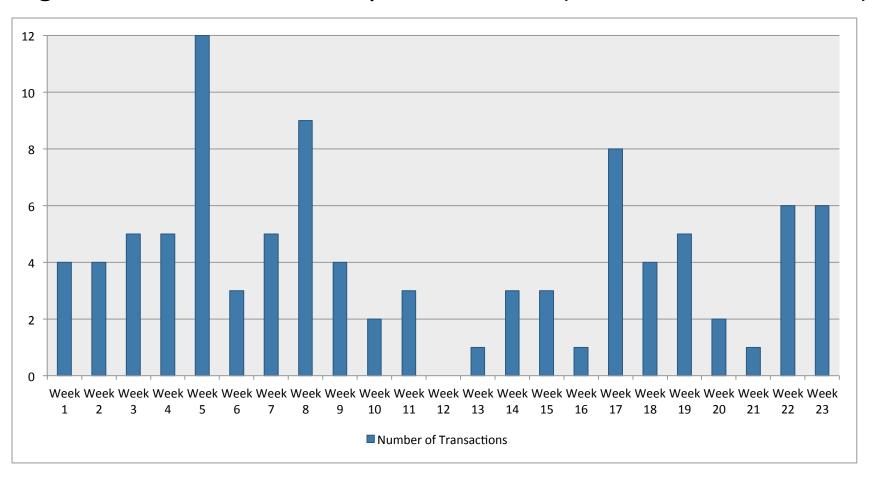
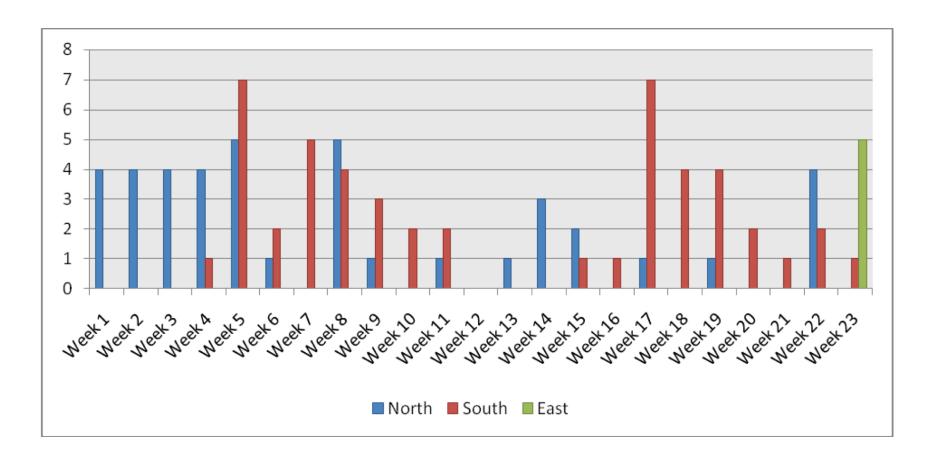


Figure 2: Number of Weekly Transactions by Region



## **Discussion and Conclusion**

- Vendors reported that they had inadequate supply of indigenous chicken.
- This suggests prices will move upward improving farmers' earnings:
  - Average price was around 70 THB/KG in initial stages but 80
     THB/KG was common in final stages.
  - Vendors still very willing to purchase birds at 80 THB/KG.
  - Appears eBird granted farmers more bargaining power.

## **Discussion and Conclusion**

- The single greatest challenge was the adoption of a new technology and in a very low-tech sector.
- Although the volume was low, the system was well received by those who participated.
- A long-term sustained presence would have improved the success of the project.
  - Farmers require experience through multiple sales.
  - The nature of small-scale farming limited the use of the project.

## **Discussion and Conclusion**

- In theory, the eBird system should encourage farmers to increase holdings.
- However, in practice we did not see farmers in Chiang
   Mai increase their holdings as a result of eBird.
  - The system was only in operation for a limited time.
  - Relative wealth of farmers in the areas immediately surrounding
     Chiang Mai is likely an important factor.

# Thank you

