

# THOHUN NEWSLETTER

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Health problems in One Health (OH) villages and the importance of OH advocacy to villagers

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OH concept to villagers and OH-capacity development

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What the OH volunteers learned and their roles to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats



75 Village Health Volunteers (VHV) and Livestock Volunteers (LV), who serve as the backbone of Thailand's primary health care system, were introduced to the OH approach, zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and methods to formulate control strategies.

According to Thailand's 6th National Health Assembly, there exists a gap between academics and villagers in terms of communication especially on zoonotic diseases from wildlife and livestock. To address that gap, THOHUN organized a workshop to enhance villagers' awareness of rabies and using the OH approach as its solution, and form a pool of trainers who can continue to advocate OH beyond the workshop. It was organized in Kanchanaburi province, Thailand where rabies, leptospirosis, brucellosis, tuberculosis, and other zoonotic diseases still occur.

A subset of the participants was trained further to become trainers as well as sources of accurate health information within the community. Using rabies as a model disease, the trainers were taught how to identify existing beliefs and misconceptions, formulate preventive strategies, how to relay messages to the community, and how to become leaders and train other villagers and the students in communities.





## SUCCESS!!!

Participants expressed improvements in knowledge and all OH capacities by the training

Information presented in the workshops were practical and can be easily disseminated in the community. The trainers or OH volunteers are credible sources of information to fellow villagers, and can effectively advise appropriate practices to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats. The platform illustrates how the gap between experts in academia and villagers can be bridged. The creation of a network of VHVs and LVs presents the opportunity for them to collaborate in the future and be able to solve health problems locally in a sustainable manner.



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