DAIRY-BEEF PROJECT

Brining Technology in Field

Project team is frequently involved in research data collection. Team has shifted from traditional paper based data collection to open source mobile platform through a data collection application (CommCare). Using paper based data collection method seemed time consuming and there were more chances of errors. CommCare has improved team working efficiency as data collected is more accurate as compared to paper based data collection because of different validations and logics used during building of surveys. Project team is capturing data from farmers in remote areas with poor or no internet availability. In this situation, CommCare facilitated the researchers to continue their work offline without any interruption and supervisors can quickly access data and give feedback to field worker. Team has used CommCare to collect data from multiple stakeholders including farmers, farm advisors, extension managers and beef value chain stakeholders.

Along with data collection, team has also used CommCare app in the extension program to provide advisory services to smallholder farming families. Team found CommCare a useful tool for initial engagement of farmers and delivering extension messages with farmers being more attentive than traditional tools used for extension e.g. printed extension material. This leads to better understanding of the extension messages and ultimately to adoption thus improving livelihoods of farmers.

Team has provided training on "digital data for research" to young researchers from developing countries in Hanoi, Vietnam. Team shared the experience and advantages of using CommCare in research project. With exposure of CommCare, researchers felt more confident to capture data in field using mobile app in future.