



## IMPACT STORY

## IVET TRAINEES

*“I want to build on what my family is doing now. I want to improve our livelihood.”*



Image: Lee Xuadaxong Credit: Swisscontact

Ms. Lee Xuadaxong is a recent graduate of the Animal Husbandry Certificate 1 course at the Integrated Vocational Education Training School (IVET) in Xiengkhuang Province. Lee did not graduate from secondary school, but she comes from a poor family who don't have the means to pay for her higher education. So, when the VTESS project came to advertise in her village, she did not hesitate to join, as she wanted an opportunity to study, help her family, and improve their livelihoods.

Out of 22 students in her class, she was only 1 of 3 females. While there are more men study this field than women. Although she felt everyone in the class provided support to one another, she said that the male students wanted to show their support to the female

students and helped them when they had trouble understanding the lessons. The project also provided the students with the necessary equipment and supplies so trainees could focus on their studies.

After finishing this course, Lee feels she has gained a better understanding of livestock economy, and that her overall knowledge and skills have improved. She now plans to help improve the family farm and turn it into a profitable business.

**“Ultimately, learning is a personal intention. If we are diligent and eager to learn, we can learn together. Both men and women can learn together. Everyone has the same rights,”** she added.

**Inception phase:** Aug 2019 - March 2020

**Project duration:** (4 yrs) Aug 2019 - July 2023

**Funded by:** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**Implementer:** Consortium Swisscontact / Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts

**Key implementing governmental partners:**

- Ministry of Education and Sports - MoES (Lead)
- Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare – MoLSW

**Target Groups:**

- Early school-leavers: young people (15-35 years of age) who have completed primary, but not lower secondary education and are subjected to income poverty.
- Wider: Teachers from IVET schools, staff from job centres or similar institutions (career counsellors, job coaches, community or youth workers, village facilitators, social workers)



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