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Disease Impact Assessment and Herd Health Approach in Ugandan pig farming

RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Livestock

CGIAR

UGANDA MORE PORK PROJECT

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Challenges

- High burden of disease and poor management leading to low productivity
- Limited knowledge of farmers about biosecurity practices
- Irrational use of drugs such as antimicrobials
- Lack of information about impacts of pig diseases

Objective

- Support and improve disease management as means to improve control and reduce the need for antimicrobials.

Our approach

- Using the heard health approach to identify animal health issues affecting productivity and animal welfare
- Assess the impact of pig diseases to provide information to decisions makers
- Assess the Knowledge Attitude and Practices of Antimicrobial Use by farmers and veterinarians to inform interventions
- Develop disease spread models to guide control strategy for Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome virus (PRRSv)

Results, outcomes, achievements

- 5 herd health champions trained at SLU, training some 30 animal health workers in reproductive management and parasite control
- Development of training packages in rational use of antibiotics and training
- 25 professionals trained on rational use of antibiotics

Intervention 1 : Herd Health Approach

Intervention 2: Participatory training in Biosecurity

Intervention 3: Interactive Voice Recording (IVR) for delivering biosecurity messages

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Results, outcomes, achievements

- More that 5,000 farmers improved knowledge on biosecurity for the control of African swine fever (ASF)
- Impact of respiratory diseases on pig productivity evaluated
- A vaccination strategy against PRRSv developed through modelling. This tool is applicable to other pig diseases.
- A policy brief promoting biosecurity to reduce the spread of ASF developed

Lessons and significance

- The Herd Health Approach is critical to better understand the complexity of pig health and productivity
- There are opportunities to test and upscale Herd Health Packages through One CGIAR initiatives in Uganda and beyond
- Impact assessment and modeling tools are useful to guide disease control strategies
- The scalability of IVR technology in Uganda and elsewhere should be explored further.

Partners

- College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security (COVAB) –Makerere University, Uganda
- District Local Government, Uganda
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda
- University of Melbourne, Australia

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