



Left: A herd health champion explaining components of a herd health innovations at one the model farms in Mukono district and Right, Use of drinking nipples connected to a water tank for clean and safe water supply for pigs (Photo Credit Peter Oba/ILRI)

## The challenge

- In Uganda, there is a high incidence of diseases, poor housing, health and welfare management in pigs
- This leads to poor productivity and low incomes of farmers
- Our goal is to reduce disease burden, improve herd health, welfare management and productivity
- To address the above challenges, we implemented research interventions in Mukono and Wakiso districts
- The intervention focused on improving knowledge of farmers and extension officers, and their practices including housing, health management, biosecurity, welfare, piglet care and waste management on herd management

## Our innovative approach

- To address the above challenges, we co-designed and implemented two key interventions – training of herd health champions and set up 4 model farms as learning centres for farmers
- In a randomized controlled trial design approach, selected farmer groups were exposed to the integrated interventions – herd health, feeds and forages and artificial insemination, as well as PigSMART extension messages
- In a *before-and-after intervention* approach, selected farmer groups were monitored for changes in knowledge, attitudes and uptake of productivity-enhancing practices



# Impacts of an integrated herd health package on farmers' knowledge, practices and pig productivity in Uganda

- A herd health package was co-designed to address high disease incidence, poor use and uptake of improved farm practices and low productivity of pigs
- The health package was tested with farmer groups and extension workers, and evaluated for impact in 2 districts in Uganda
- Improvement in farmers' knowledge, pig productivity and adoption of better practices is enhanced if technology innovations are integrated in their delivery to end-users

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## Outcomes

- Trained 11 herd health champions and > 160 farmers on herd health management – from Mukono and Wakiso districts
- Organized learning visits to the model farms for 183 pig farmers in Mukono and Wakiso districts
- Exposed 185 farmers in Wakiso and 264 farmers in Mukono to PigSMART extension messages
- Evidence of farmers' improved knowledge, attitudes and uptake of productivity-enhancing practices being realized

## Next steps

- Following the endline surveys, we will analyze data to determine impacts of the integrated innovations on farmers' knowledge, practices and productivity
- The integration of technological innovations has potential for wider applicability in Uganda's livestock extension system
- Our integrated technology innovations will be assessed for scaling readiness

## Partners



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