

Engaging with partners in R4D to enhance animal health in the Uganda smallholder pig value chain

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Background

Value chain assessment to identify animal health and gender related constraints like;

- High burden of diseases (African swine fever, parasites)
- Poor access of farmers to quality drugs and other input services
- Poor biosecurity measures along the value chain
- No enforcement of disease control policies

Key lessons

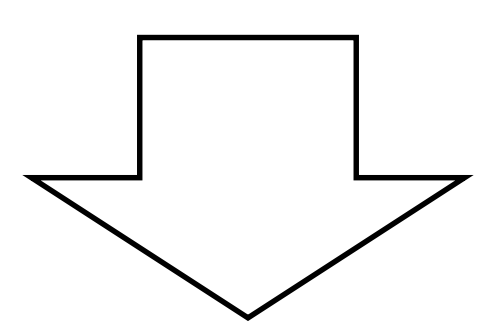
- Local partners are key in connecting the researchers to the community
- Partnership should be formalized through an MoU or any other document in order to clarify roles and establish trust among both parties
- Project exit strategies should be always embedded in research proposals to ensure sustainability
- Research should be aligned with local priorities

Capacity building

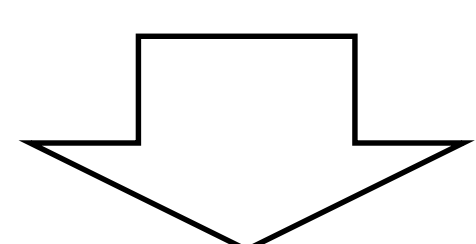
- Trained postgraduate students in pig disease research
- Worked with Makerere University and the Ministry of Agriculture laboratories and built capacities of technical staff on disease diagnostics
- Refurbished district laboratories and built capacities of local technicians
- Trained local government staff on participatory research tools, disease survey and gender-sensitive training

Activities

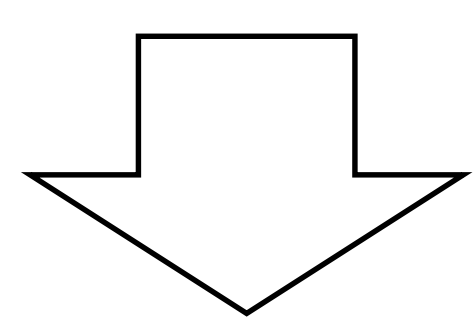
In-depth value chain assessment of animal health constraints



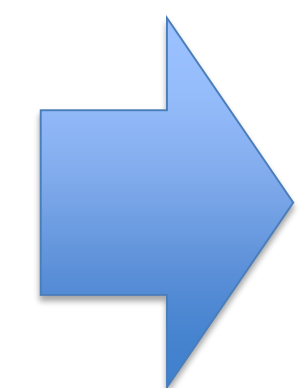
Identification/selection of best-bet interventions in animal health and food safety



Pilot testing of best bet interventions in animal health



Monitoring of best-bets interventions and learnings with VC actors and partners



Results

- Prevalence and risk factors of 15 pig diseases
- IHH and gender disaggregated KAP surveys on biosecurity with 1500 VC actors



Participatory training (PT) of farmers and other value chain actors on biosecurity and best practices in pork handling



RCTs with 960 farmers and 45 pork butchers to test the effectiveness of PT of VC actors on disease burden and biosecurity



- What are the success stories
- What are the failures
- What do we learn from the process?



Outcomes/achievements

- Animal health constraints and opportunities identified and prioritized
- Pig disease and zoonosis map for Uganda established
- Disease control and farm management info-material (training manuals, leaflets) for value chain actors developed
- “Best-bet” interventions identified, pilot tested and refined together with actors, stakeholders and partners
- Capacity building of more than 4000 farmers and other value chain actors.
- Established a Pig Multi-stakeholder platform for learning and exchanging experiences
- Future priority research areas in pig health and zoonosis for Uganda identified and documented

What when well

- Strong enthusiasm and willingness of partners to collaborate
- Built trust between the ILRI researchers and partners
- Contribution from both parties to achieve goal

Challenges

- Lack of long-term commitment with partners due to short projects timelines and small funding's
- Fatigue of VC actors when too many researchers work in the same sites
- High expectations of the communities
- Local partners not able to fully take at scale technologies by themselves

Opportunities for research

- Engagement with local partners on a CRP linkage fund project with US Veterinarians Without Borders and University of Georgia to work on proof of concept for use of mobile phone for diagnostic of pig diseases
- Effectiveness of the established platforms to scale out animal health interventions and advocate for favourable policies

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