

Improving pig genetics in Uganda

Sustainable intensification of the pig value chain in Uganda for improved rural livelihoods and enhanced food security



Research conducted by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and partners has identified poor genetics as a key factor in hampering pig production in Uganda. This issue has been also repeatedly raised by a number of stakeholders—including smallholder pig keepers and other value chain actors—who participated in this and other ILRI projects in Uganda, as well as through local and national-level multi-stakeholder platforms established to support the sector. Addressing this obstacle will require action at both institutional and farmer levels, accompanied by further research to examine its effectiveness.

Project goal

The three-year project aims to contribute to sustainable intensification of the pig value chain in the country, resulting in increased food and nutritional security of poor animal-source food consumers, and improved livelihoods of smallholder women and men pig keepers and other value chain actors.

Objectives

The project seeks to increase the productivity and profitability of the Ugandan smallholder pig enterprises through: the identification of the most appropriate pig breed-type(s); the development of a genetic improvement strategy to ensure the availability and accessibility of genetically superior pigs; and support for the uptake and optimal management of the genetically superior pigs by smallholder pig keepers. Key project activities will include:

- Evaluating the profitability and productivity of different pig production systems in Uganda, including contributions and benefits from an intra-household perspective, and identifying the most appropriate system for households with different risk profiles.
- Designing, with stakeholders, a genetic improvement strategy for the smallholder pig sector of Uganda.
- Developing, with stakeholders, a scheme the registration of pig suppliers of known breed-type / genetic quality and piloting it.
- Building the capacity of women and men pig keepers, as well as other stakeholders, on the productivity and profitability of different household pig production systems and the identified genetic improvement strategy.

Approach

The project will be undertaken in two key pig-keeping districts. Data will be collected over a 14-month period from about 150 pig keeping households and at least 400 breeding sows to assess the productivity and profitability of different pig production systems.

A genetics improvement strategy for pigs in Uganda will be developed in conjunction with a broad range of stakeholders with the involvement of women and young people and the harnessing of public-private partnerships to build capacities and the requisite infrastructure for sustainability.

A scheme to register the pig suppliers of known breed-types/genetic qualities will be undertaken, facilitating access by smallholders to the breed types of their choice. In line with its mandate as per the 2001 Animal Breeding Act, the National Animal Genetic Resources Centre & Databank (NAGRC&DB) will lead the registration and certification of all animal breeds, breeders and breeding centres. The scaling out of the scheme is expected to take place after the project ends, as part of further implementation of the genetic improvement strategy.

The project shall build capacity of women and men smallholder pig keepers (including village boar keepers) and other stakeholders—such as artificial insemination service providers, extension agents, etc.— on the use of pig genetics resources.



Partners

Funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock, the project will be implemented by ILRI in partnership with the National Animal Genetic Resources Centre and Databank (NAGRC&DB), Uganda and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Austria.

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