The use of a holistic approach is beneficial in identifying clinically relevant multifactorial health and productivity constraints in smallholder pig farms.

Identifying health and productivity constraints by using Veterinary Herd Health Management – the case of smallholder Ugandan pig farms

Context
- Good health is needed to achieve good productivity in smallholder pig farms
- Previous health research have mainly focused on single infectious diseases, while health and sickness often are multifactorial

Our innovative approach
- Veterinary Herd Health Management is a holistic approach based on regular herd visits where many aspects of the production are investigated through interviews, observations, clinical examinations, targeted laboratory samples and production records
- The health and productivity of the herds are in focus

Outputs
- Identification of the pathogens that are likely to be of clinical relevance
- Recognition of constraints at herd level
- Calculation of production figures, on growth, mortality and reproduction

Future steps
- The approach can be used in livestock research to identify constraints and subsequent interventions
- Can also be used in daily practice of animal health workers
- Continuous herd-specific interventions and advisory service are to be investigated 2020-2021

Desired outcome
- Improved health, welfare and productivity in smallholder pig farms in sub-Saharan Africa

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