



NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

Impact of respiratory diseases on weight gain in Uganda pigs

- Preliminary results show PCV2, PRRSv & their co-infections were associated with severe clinical disease and up to 15% reduction in average daily (ADGs) weight gains
- Pigs that tested seropositive to PCV2 & PRRSv were more likely to show higher lung lesion scores (32%) at post-mortem than those that tested seronegative (13%)



LIVESTOCK HEALTH

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Context

- Respiratory diseases (RDs) contribute significantly economic losses to farmers
- Impact of RDs on growth rates is unknown in Uganda
- This study aimed to determine effect of RDs infections on weight gains in pigs
- Purpose was to generate evidence to inform interventions and support policy formulation
- A previous study documented occurrence of key resp. pathogens in pigs; however, no impact study had ever been done on RDs in Ugandan pigs
- Study was undertaken in Lira district, mid-northern Uganda
- Beneficiaries: pig producers, traders and butchers

Our innovative approach

- A longitudinal study was conducted from Oct 2018 to Sept 2019.
- Interviews with select households held on herd performance parameters; pigs sampled for exposure to key respiratory pathogens

Outcomes

- Study was completed in Sept 2019; analysis results under preparation
- Significant associations between PCV2, M. hyo and gastro-intestinal parasites was observed
- A manuscript for publication is under preparation

Future steps

- Define preventive tools based on evidence generated
- Test efficacy & effectiveness of vaccination protocols against PCV2 and PRRSv in smallholder settings
- Scale up of biosecurity interventions to reduce impacts of RDs infections in herds
- Support policy development on pig breeding – minimize disease spread through uncontrolled breeding practices

Partners

Makerere University | NARO
District Local Governments. | Private sector



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