

A new CGIAR initiative explores opportunities for improving the smallholder pig value chain in Uganda



The research program, *More meat, milk and fish by and for the poor*, is a newly approved initiative of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) aimed at sustainably increasing productivity of small-scale livestock and fish systems so as to increase availability and affordability of meat, milk and fish for poor consumers.

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) leads this CGIAR Research Program in collaboration with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the WorldFish Center as the core CGIAR partners. Various other strategic and value chain partners will play key roles in the implementation of the program. The research program will study nine pro-poor value chains across the developing world, two of which happen to be in Uganda: the smallholder pig and small-scale aquaculture value chains.

As part of the initial process of stakeholder engagement for the smallholder pig value chain, ILRI and CIAT convened a stakeholder meeting in Kampala on 14 June 2011 to consider opportunities for improving the smallholder pig value chain for growth and poverty alleviation.

The purpose of the meeting was to share information about ongoing research and development activities relevant to smallholder pig production and marketing, to solicit stakeholders' perspectives on constraints and to introduce and receive feedback on the new CGIAR Research Program. An anticipated project funded by the European Commission and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will allow the CGIAR Research Program to work with partners in Uganda to build

on and add to the existing research and development activities targeting the smallholder pig value chain. During the meeting, a consultant agricultural economist, Dr John Jagwe, presented some preliminary results of an ongoing study by ILRI, the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to improve livestock statistics for decision-making, particularly focusing on production systems for dairy, beef, chicken, egg, pork and goat.

The study is generating data to guide the design and implementation of the smallholder pig value chain project and other potential opportunities, including data on quality and safety attributes, the type of consumer buying particular pork products, growth prospects by product type and constraints to growth in supply.

"Our initial findings show that more and more people are keeping pigs, and changing lifestyles and consumption patterns have led to an increase in demand for and consumption of pork," said Dr Jagwe.

The stakeholder meeting confirmed and enriched an initial assessment of the clear opportunities for research and development to accelerate the development of the smallholder pig sector and associated supply chains to meet the rapidly growing demand for pork in Uganda and regionally.

It also endorsed the value to be added by continuing to share information and coordinating better our collective research and development efforts to achieve the sector's potential for enhancing food security and livelihoods.

The meeting report is available online at <http://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/4049>.

For more information, please contact Dr Tom Randolph, email: t.randolph@cgiar.org.