

Nagadya Berna, a pig farmer in Masaka, Uganda, using the new interactive voice advisory service on her mobile phone. Photo M. Dione/ILRI

Context

- Lack of knowledge of farmers about best practices in biosecurity is a challenge to the control of African swine fever (ASF) and other pig diseases;
- Adoption of biosecurity measures requires that farmers have knowledge best practices and have the capacity to adopt biosecurity protocols;
- Need for capacity building of farmers.

Our innovative approach

- Participatory training is an interactive learning process enabling individuals and communities to develop skills, knowledge and attitudes, and to share lessons learnt.
- ICT tools such as Interactive Voice Recording (IVR) when properly applied in the context of the overall extension and advisory services system could help address in a timely and effective manner the existing challenges being faced in the area of extension and advisory services by many pig farmers.
- We tested participatory training on biosecurity coupled with IVR messaging with 830 and 408 farmers respectively using a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)

POVERTY REDUCTION, LIVELIHOODS & JOBS

Participatory training and mobile phone assisted approaches for strengthening capacity of Uganda smallholder pigs value chains actors in biosecurity and disease control

- Participatory training and IVR are effective approaches to deliver biosecurity messages to farmers;
- IVR can improve access of women farmers to information on biosecurity.



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LIVESTOCK HEALTH

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Outcomes

- Participatory training and IVR improved knowledge of farmers on best practices in biosecurity and ASF control
- Knowledge was enhanced for the farmers that were reached through IVR and participatory training more substantially than those that only received the participatory training only;
- Lack of financial capacity hinder wide adoption of best practices for disease control by farmers;
- Extension tools tailored to the local context for building capacity of farmers in biosecurity and disease control are made available for wider dissemination

Future steps

- Tackle incentives for adoption after training by implementing/advocating for interventions such as market approach, funding support to farmers or public-private partnerships amongst others
- Embed the training material in the extension system for further scaling

Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Local District Governments, Makerere University



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