



A healthy litter born from artificial insemination
Photo credit: D. Kugonza, Makerere University

Challenge

- Low sale price of pigs, and inability of farmers to negotiate a higher sale price
- Lack of access to improved pig genetics
- Suspicion of artificial insemination as a reproductive technology

Our approach

- Training of pig producers on pig breeds, breeding and artificial insemination
- Piloting of community based artificial insemination, where pigs belonging to groups of farmers are synchronised and inseminated at around the same time. This results in:
 - cohorts of piglets ready for sale, giving farmers or farmer groups better negotiation power on pig prices
 - exposure of pig farmers to improved pig genetics (farmers select the breed-type of boar used in the inseminations)
 - exposure of farmers to artificial insemination
- Training of pig buyers (aggregators) in market-based approaches

Community based artificial insemination of pigs in Uganda



UGANDA MORE PORK PROJECT

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Project intervention
Community based artificial insemination
Market systems and aggregators



Women and men pig keepers who participated in a training session.
Photo credit: D. Kugonza, Makerere University

Results, outcomes, achievements

- Training of more than 300 smallholder pig keepers, about one-third of whom were women, in pig breeds, breeding and artificial insemination, using tailored training materials in local languages
- Community based artificial insemination pilot underway:
 - 244 households from two districts (Mukono and Masaka) participating
 - 290 sows inseminated and 138 confirmed pregnancies
 - 52 litters born to date, with an average litter size of 8 and range from 5 to 13

Lessons and significance

- Women and men pig farmers showed their willing to test artificial insemination. Additional feedback will be obtained as part of end-line monitoring activities.
- Ensuring semen availability in the field has been an ongoing challenge, given its short life-span. Given this, a new project component testing different types of semen extenders has been added.
- Additional investment in scaling of artificial insemination in Uganda is required, as currently it is only available in limited locations.

Partners

- VetLine services: <http://www.vetlineservicesug.com/>
- PigBoost project: <https://abacusbio.com/projects/case-study-pigboost/>



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Pig artificial insemination
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