Meat inspectors' refresher training in Uganda

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Introduction

Globally, the increasing number of zoonotic and emerging diseases reportedly arising from foods of animal origin (meat and meat products) have greatly compromised economies and the public health sector impacting human health, food safety, and animal health. As a result, several stakeholders have taken a keen interest in building capacity and fostering refresher or in-service training aimed at reducing the burden of such zoonoses arising from the food industry. Such efforts have included the implementation of a refresher training aimed at boosting and enhancing capacity of the meat value chain actors with support from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the BUILD Uganda project.

Methods

The main objective of this training was to boost, retool and equip meat inspectors in routine meat inspection procedures, hands-on skills in meat

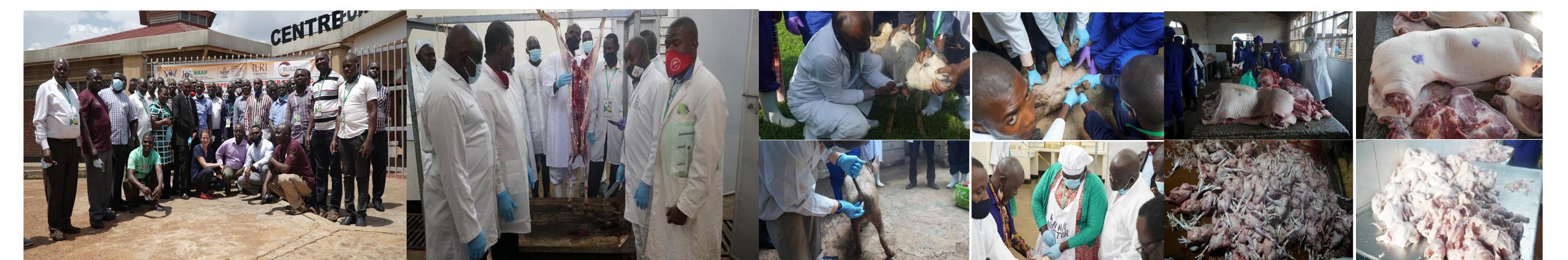


hygiene and food safety procedures and knowledge on meat inspection regulations and standards through continuous capacity building. The training was one of its kind, with a blended training model i.e. lectures, group discussions, learner-led discussions and demonstrations, field visits and excursions, return demonstrations, expert fora (bringing experts in the field to give guest lectures) among others. These were used to ensure that the learners despite the limited training time, achieved a lot of knowledge and skills for improved food safety.

Findings

The meat inspection refresher training was initiated with 40 invitees, meat inspectors, from 31 districts across the country.

Training was conducted from 4 to 10 October and 11 to 15 October 2021 at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB), Makerere University.





Conclusions

- Through this refresher training, meat inspectors were able to create a coordinated platform for continued engagements, knowledge sharing, data collection and networking.
- Facilitators from Makerere University and MAAIF had several lessons learned for further improved future refresher training.

Contribution to Uganda's livestock development agenda

- A valuable ODK system for surveillance and monitoring for specific zoonotic diseases for animals established.
- Refresher trainings contribute to addressing the challenges associated with increasing number of zoonotic diseases arising from meat and meat products.
- Sustainable occupational and consumer safety

Capacity Building of in-service providers under BUILD



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