

Project Summary

Title	Developing Appropriate Feeding and Breeding Strategies for Improved Smallholder Pig Production
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Purpose	The purpose of the project is to increase productivity and profitability of smallholder crop-livestock farming systems by developing appropriate diets that permit early weaning and promoting use of fresh semen for AI as a tool to increased access to improved males and control of disease.
Project Summary	Within the livestock industry in Uganda, the pig sub-sector is the least developed in terms of productivity per sow, growth rate of market pigs, pork supply per capita and proportion of industrially processed pork products. A large proportion of the nearly 3 million pigs produced annually is by smallholder mixed crop livestock farmers of whom more than 80% are concentrated in rural areas. Although accurate statistics are not available, Uganda imports processed pig products to fill the increasing gap between supply and demand for pork and to compensate for the low internal capacity to process domestically produced pork into finished products. The production of pigs offers rural households opportunities to increase incomes, diversify smallholder farm enterprises, create employment and improve the nutrient status of the soils through use of manure. Therefore, this project aims to improve pig productivity among smallholder pig farmers in Uganda through research to maximize nutrient utilization from local cereal grains, and increased access to improved breeding material through use of Artificial Insemination (AI) technologies. An evaluation of the effect of boiling, fermentation and malting through laboratory chemical analyses, digestibility studies and animal growth responses will be carried out. Collection of semen, evaluation of quality and field inseminations to evaluate reproductive performance in comparison to natural mating will also be conducted.

Country and Specific Location(s)	Busukuma sub-county of Wakiso district.
Participating Institutions	Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute, The National Cereals Crops Research Institute- Serere.
Start Date	August 2009
End date	July 2011
Amount of Funding	US\$ 60,000

