

Profiting from pigs in Rwanda: Improving people's lives and livelihoods through more productive pig farming

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Duroc breed at the RAB Muhanga Center of Excellence (Photo credit: Isaac Manyeki)

Why this research project matters

- The pig sector in Rwanda has grown considerably in the last 10 years, driven by a strong, increasing demand for pork in both domestic and export market.
- The Livestock Master Plan for Rwanda (2017/2018 to 2021/2022) identifies the pig value chain as one of four key livestock value chains with the potential for high productivity increase and ability to contribute to national economic development objectives, including food and nutrition security.
- The rural poor keep pigs to diversify their risks and improve livelihood security. Pigs also serve as a source of cash in times of need, and in this regard can be particularly important to women.
- The contribution of pig meat to protein nutrition is very high. In Rwanda, pig farming is dominated by smallholders rearing one or two sows in their backyards and practicing low-input systems.



Small scale slaughterhouse in Musanze (Photo credit: Isaac Manyeki)

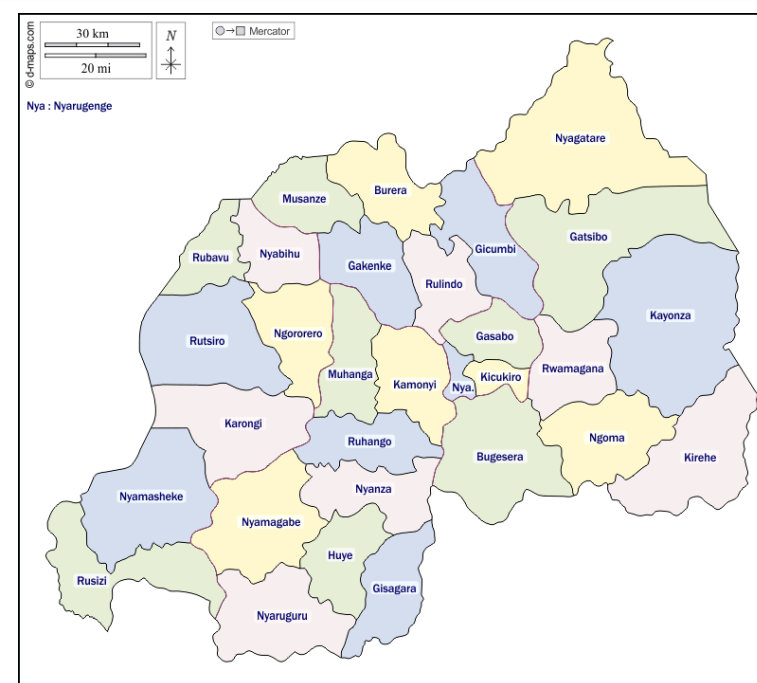
Overarching goal

Improve the livelihoods of smallholder men and women pig producers, in a sustainable manner, through increased productivity and incomes and strengthened market linkages in pig value chains, and to strengthen the capacities of Rwanda's National Agricultural Research and Education Systems in pig husbandry, including the production and delivery of quality pig genetics.

Our work is based in

Rwanda: Gakenke and Nyamagabe districts

- 6 sectors in Gakenke
- 6 sectors in Nyamagabe

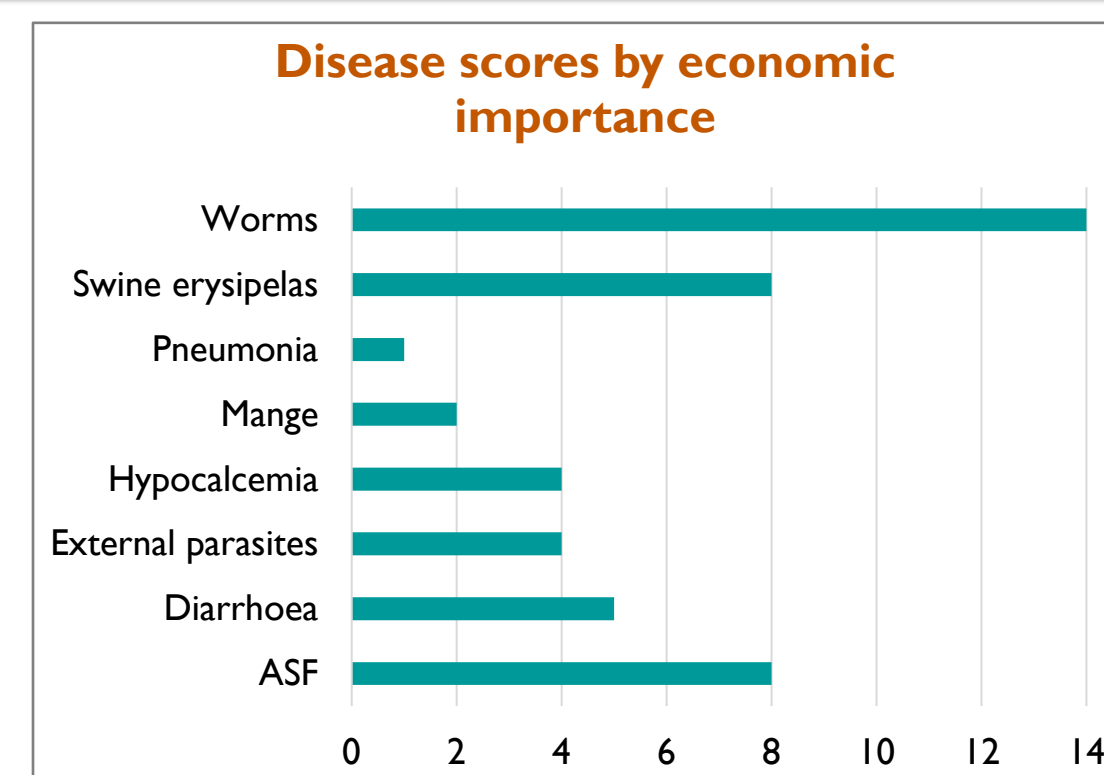


Semen collection at the RAB Muhanga Center of Excellence (Photo credit: Isaac Manyeki)

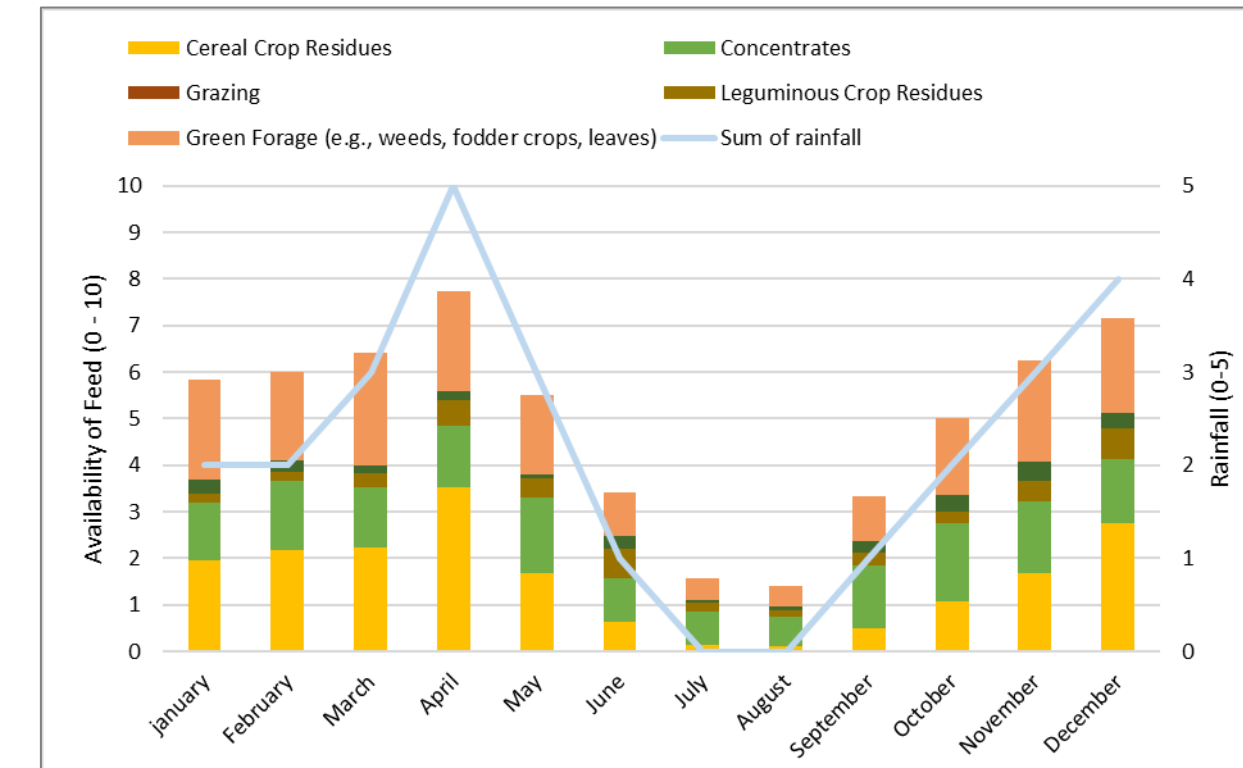
What we have done so far

- ✓ Participatory epidemiology study to assess herd health management and herd health constraints (16 sex disaggregated FGDs)
- ✓ Workshop with stakeholders to co-design a herd health package – components prioritized by participants include – housing, biosecurity measures, health management, and special care for piglets
- ✓ Documentation of the pig genetics value chain and adapting training materials on pig breeds and pig breeding developed for smallholder systems in Uganda for Rwanda
- ✓ Traceability and performance recording of pigs in the RAB centers of excellence - collaboration with Pan Livestock Services to customize the InterHerd system to pigs and train RAB staff
- ✓ Implementation of G-FEAST (8 FGDs and 24 individual farmer interviews) to understand the overall feeding system, available feed resources and identify aspects of gender relations that affect animal feeding and uptake of feed innovations
- ✓ Strengthening pig farmer groups business capacities, and bargaining skills with market actors, coupled with market linkages – collaboration with E4Impact

Early insights – constraints and opportunities



- Endemic diseases of economic impact – include ASF, swine erysipelas, and worms
- Gender roles are well defined around management of animal health issues – men are responsible for seeking solutions from the AHVs and women for identifying sick pigs as they are in charge of the general care activities – cleaning pens and feeding pigs
- High cost of commercial animal feeds available in the market
- Pig market prices are low compared to production cost hence low or negative returns from pig farming



Seasonal rainfall patterns and feed availability for pigs throughout the year in Gakenke district

- Seasonal availability of feed resources
- Difficulty in accessing enough feeds throughout the year

Our work on the cross-cutting themes

Gender and Youth

- Explored gendered constraints and opportunities around pig production and marketing for smallholder pig farmers
- Qualitative surveys: 8 sex disaggregated FGDs and 26 KIIs
- Collaboration with the Gender and Youth CCT Team Leader in a gender study

Local Capacity Development

- Upskilling of RAB and UR officers in G-FEAST to identify feed interventions and support farmers to formulate feeds
- Collaboration with RAB, UR, VSF and the Rwanda Council of Veterinary Doctors to train Herd Health champions to support farmers in appropriate herd health practices



Vision Agribusiness Farm Ltd (Photo credit: Isaac Manyeki)

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