# Promoting Jersey breed Artificial Insemination service for improved livelihoods in small-holder dairy farming households in Central Uganda (JAILU)

Household socio-economic factors, cow husbandry and reproductive management practices in Uganda are associated with reproductive performance of dairy cows, where, inappropriate husbandry practices are associated with failure to attain a calf per cow per year. The environment depresses production efficiency of Friesian cows hence alternative less demanding dairy breeds of cows such as the jersey are likely to be more efficient within the Ugandan climatic and socio-economic environment. Furthermore, AI services for better breeding management are not well organized. There is need to enhance AI services to mitigate reproductive losses associated with AI.

The overall objective of this project is to promote sustainable livelihood of men, women and youth through Jersey cow artificial breeding in smallholder dairy farming households in central Uganda. The specific objectives are to: i. build capacity for sustainable and efficient delivery of artificial breeding services for Jersey semen in Central Uganda; ii. establish a liquid Nitrogen resource and AI service center, training & research at College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB), Makerere University, and iii. advocate for political and technical policy maker support for development and implementation of a favorable AI service delivery system at local level.

The first strategic intervention is farmer sensitization and education. This involves development of courses focusing on cattle management and reproduction, including a simplified breeding guide for farmers on how and what traits to think of when selecting bulls for AI. The second strategic intervention is strengthening AI support services at Makerere University, for example, through practical and theoretical support to AI field technicians. This will cover access to liquid nitrogen, logistic planning of daily AI routines, to recording, evaluation and quality assurance of the connected AI technicians and other extension staff. The third strategic intervention is organizing events to lobby, advocate and facilitate dialogue leading to formulation of AI supportive policies, for example including identification and promotion of cattle breeds adapted for prevailing conditions, development of a breeding program and Development of national standard operation procedures for AI-work.

Lead implementer:  Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Partners:
- Directorate of Animal Resources, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda
- HPI Uganda
- Area Veterinary officer in charge of breeding services in Luwero
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden