Exploring animals' keeping practices in rural households: A qualitative study in Nanoro, Burkina Faso

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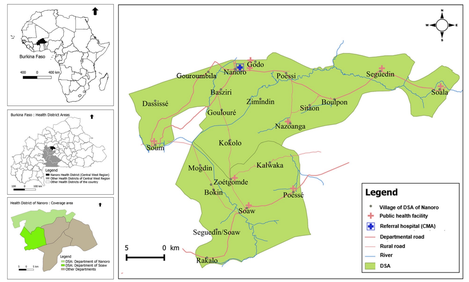
Introduction

The traditional animal husbandry which involved close contact of livestock with household members has been recognized as a cause of zoonotic diseases and the transfer of antibiotic resistance genes from livestock to animals 'owners (Swarthout et al. 2022). This study adopts qualitative methods to explore breeding practices in rural households in Burkina Faso.

Methods

Reaserch setting



- The Health District of Nanoro
- Center- West region of Burkina Faso
- The health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS).

Data collection

- Group Discussions (8)
  - Men (5)
  - Women (3)
- Interviews (17)
  - Women (7)
  - Men (7)
  - Herders (3)

Findings

Animals' keeping arrangement

Chicken free rooming

Pigs' keeping areas

Livestock keeping area

Mosquito nets as a fence

Cooking stuff used to feed cheeps

Animals' health management

Seeking care with the local animal health worker
- Injection

Seeking care outside the formal health care provision
- Vet treatment ineffective, Lack of financial resources

Self-treatment practices
- Indigenous home remedies, Treatment rooted in mystical faiths, Seeking treatment with "street drugs' sellers"

Selling
- When it is sick and heading to death, and you know a butcher, or whoever pays for it, you will sell it. [FGD 2 women]

Killing
- "When animal was sick and if we realized that the illness was serious, we slaughtered it to get the blood out. If you left the animal die, you would have to throw it away". [IDI A. 05 man]

Importance of breeding animals in households

Fixing everyday problems

"And the husband is seated, he has nothing, but you have a pig. Are you going to sit with the man while your child is dying. you are not going to get up and sell. You will sell. To get the medicines to treat your child. That is why we do breeding." [FDG 2 with women]

Fulfilling social and cultural duties

"You can't arrange a union if you don't have a goat to bring with you there. If you don't go with the goat, you'll go with the money of the goat. The money of the goat that will go there will come from the goat that you caught at home to sell. " [FGD with 6 men]

Barrier to bad luck

"It may be that some disease or some big problem wants to get into the compound. The animal may take this misfortune, one day you'll see that it is dead on the ground. Well! Something was coming into the compound, and it took it. This kind of thing also exists"[FGD2 with women]

Dead animal management

Throwing it away	"Sometimes we sell but sometimes we also ah! We give to the children because they are the ones who have been taking care of the animals" [FGD2 women]
Consuming it	"…the pig has a disease no matter how difficult it is for you, if you have a pig that suffers from this disease and the butchers don't want it and you don't want it either, you will have to take it and throw it away against your will…[FGD4, women]

Conclusion

- Animals are important to poeple life in their every day life
- Economic reasons and culturals beliefs drive animals' keeping arrangement and health care practices
- People adopt risky practices likely to transmit disease as well as AMR.
- This study contributes by flagging up sites where further biological investigations could be carried out.

Contact

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