



Evaluating IPM Strategies in Kikwit Rural Communities: An Assessment Among Small-Scale Cattle Herders in Democratic Republic of Congo

Sasolangani Nghalo¹

¹ Department of Animal Science, University of Namibia (UNAM)

Published: 04 August 2004 | **Received:** 04 May 2004 | **Accepted:** 13 June 2004

Correspondence: snghalo@gmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18786419](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18786419)

Author notes

Sasolangani Nghalo is affiliated with Department of Animal Science, University of Namibia (UNAM) and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Abstract

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies are crucial for sustainable agricultural practices in developing countries like Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), particularly among small-scale cattle herders in rural communities. A mixed-methods approach incorporating surveys, focus groups, and observational data collection was employed to assess herders' perceptions and practices regarding current IPM approaches and their willingness to adopt new strategies. Surveys revealed a significant preference ($p < 0.05$) for environmentally friendly pest control methods over conventional chemical treatments among small-scale cattle herders in Kikwit, suggesting potential adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The findings indicate that IPM strategies are perceived favorably by local farmers but require tailored implementation to address specific challenges and resource constraints. Develop evidence-based guidance on cost-effective IPM practices suitable for Kikwit's agro-ecological conditions, alongside community engagement initiatives to facilitate wider adoption. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta} p X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, AgriculturalEcology, Sustainability, Eco-Friendly, Predator-Prey, CommunityBased, Indicators*

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