

RAISING ANIMAL WELFARE AWARENESS AMONG FARMERS IN MUSANZE DISTRICT

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Livestock sector in Rwanda: Overview

- Land area: 26,338 km², human population: 13.24 million
- Livestock remains the cornerstone of the economy with contributing (3%) to GDP.

Animal Welfare (AW) challenges include:

- Limited awareness and education on animal AW
- Cultural attitudes
- Low level of concern at the governmental level

RAWO-WTS project overview



Project Title:

**Raising Animal Welfare Awareness
Among Livestock Farmers in Musanze
District 2021-2023**

Project Goal:

Promote AW and sustainable livestock farming by raising awareness among farmers, fostering improved animal welfare and health, productivity and public health.

Project objectives



Raise awareness among livestock farmers about the importance of animal welfare and Five Freedoms and its importance in livestock production.



Equip farmers with essential skills and knowledge for responsible animal ownership and effective livestock management.



Promote the "One Health Approach," emphasizing the interconnectedness of animal, human, and their shared environmental .



Encourage the responsible use of antimicrobial in livestock to prevent antimicrobial resistance and safeguard public

Project scope and methodology

1. Pre-training phase:

Development of training materials, capacity building, stakeholders' meeting with 27 officials, collaboration with Musanze local officials and 1800 beneficiaries selection.

2. Training implementation:

Targeted 1800 livestock farmers, including 120 key livestock farmers from each sector, so far **1702 farmers** were trained in the whole project.

3. Farmers assessment before trainings

Assess the existing level of animal welfare awareness and basic livestock management among farmers in Musanze

4. Post-training farmers assessment

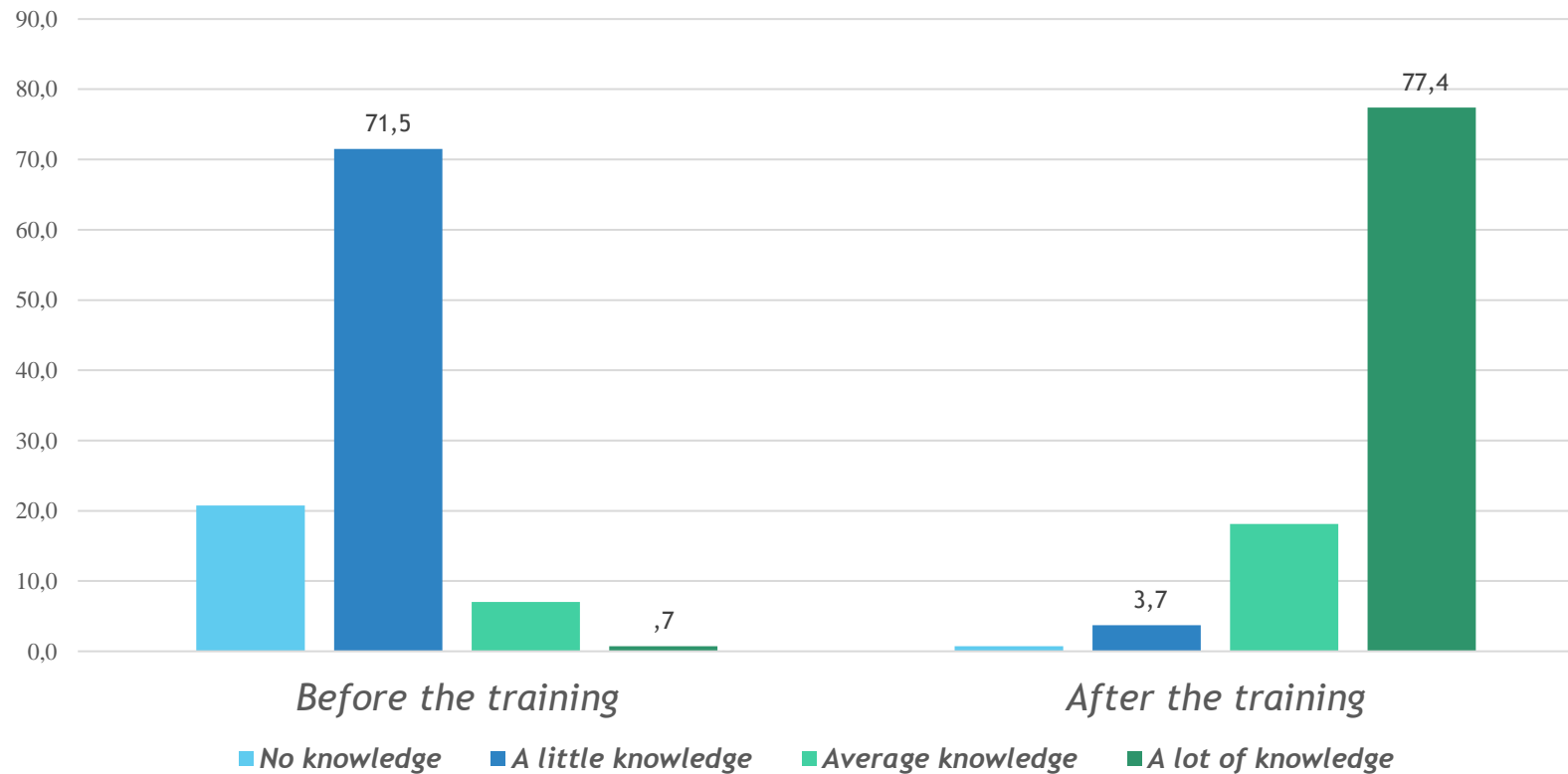
Comprehensive understanding of project outcome after 6-9 months across different contexts within Musanze District.

Pre-training assessment and trainings



Project outcomes

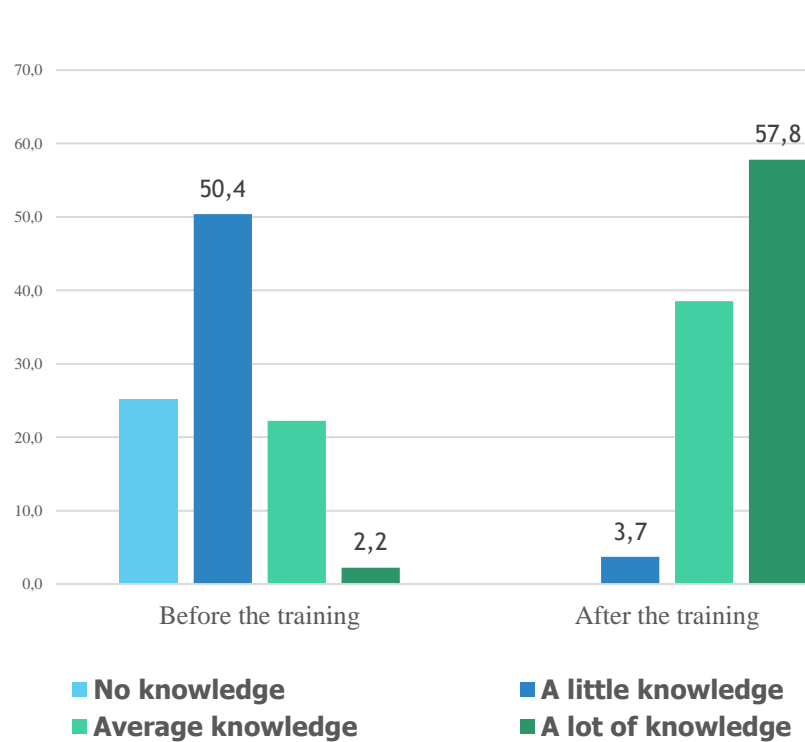
► Fulfilment of the Five Freedoms of Animals



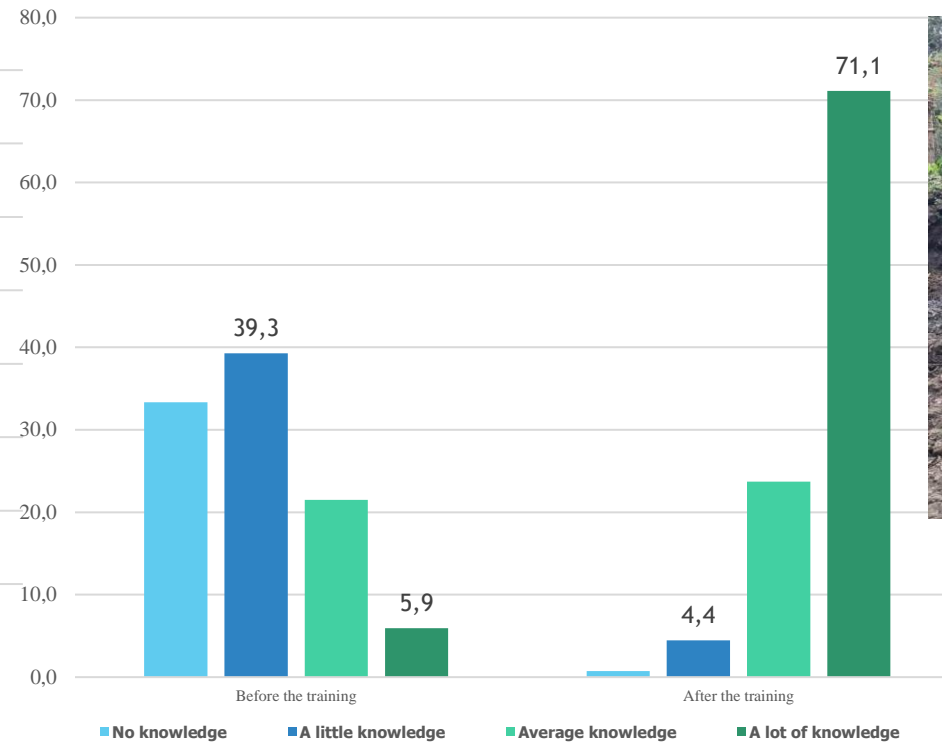
Impact: Enhanced AW awareness, a positive step towards improved productivity.

Project outcomes

Animal nutrition



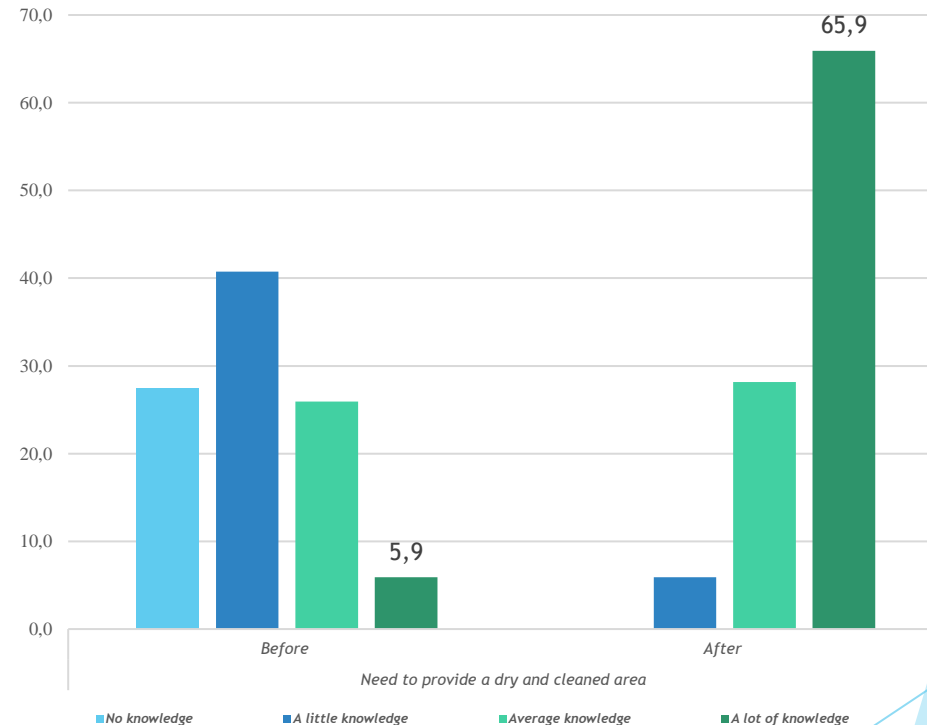
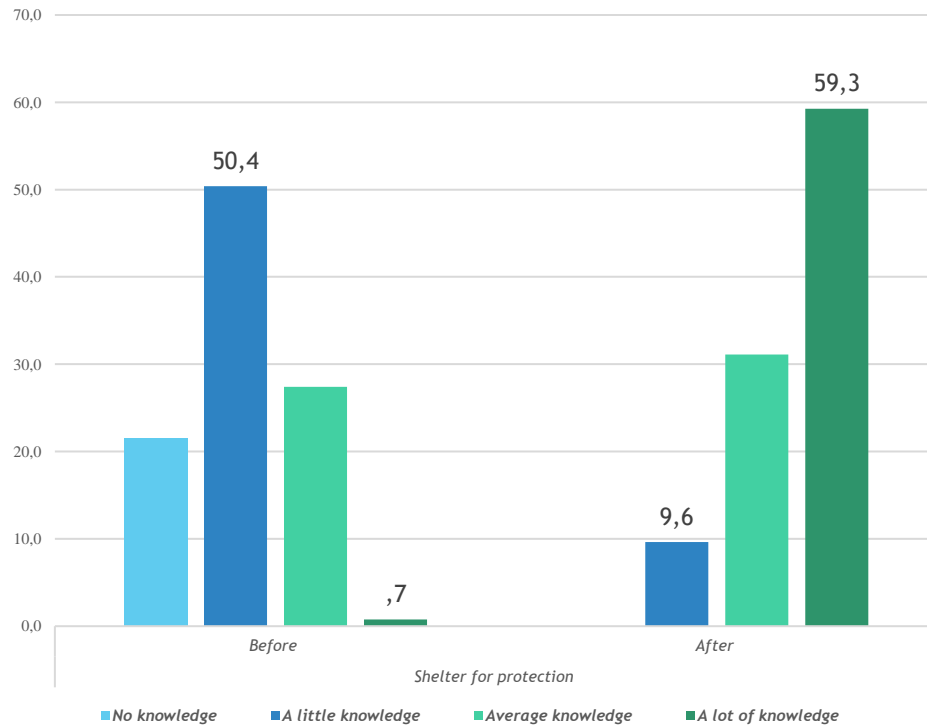
Animal hydration



Impact: Improved awareness of animal nutritional needs and watering indicative of improved animal welfare and increased productivity

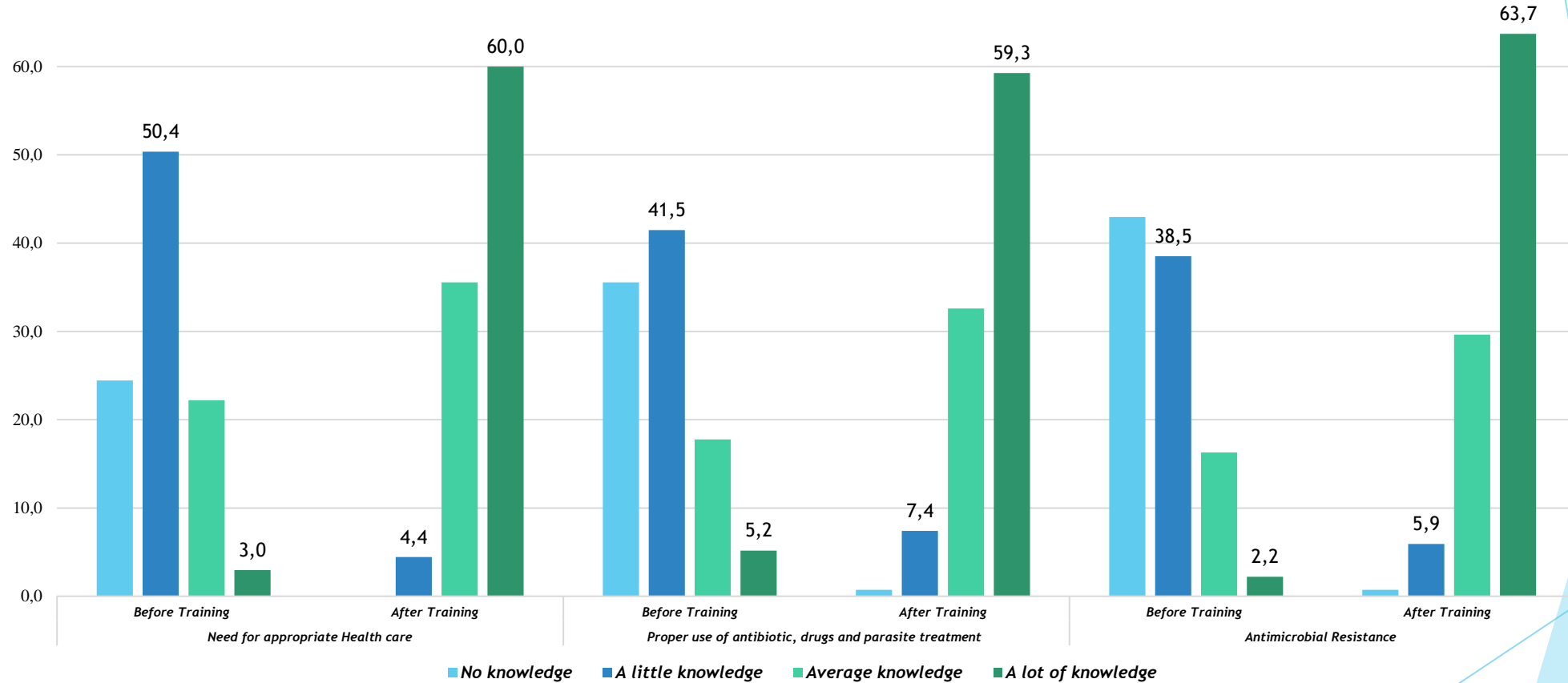
Project outcomes

Environment and living conditions



Impact: Enhanced awareness of shelter importance for animal protection.

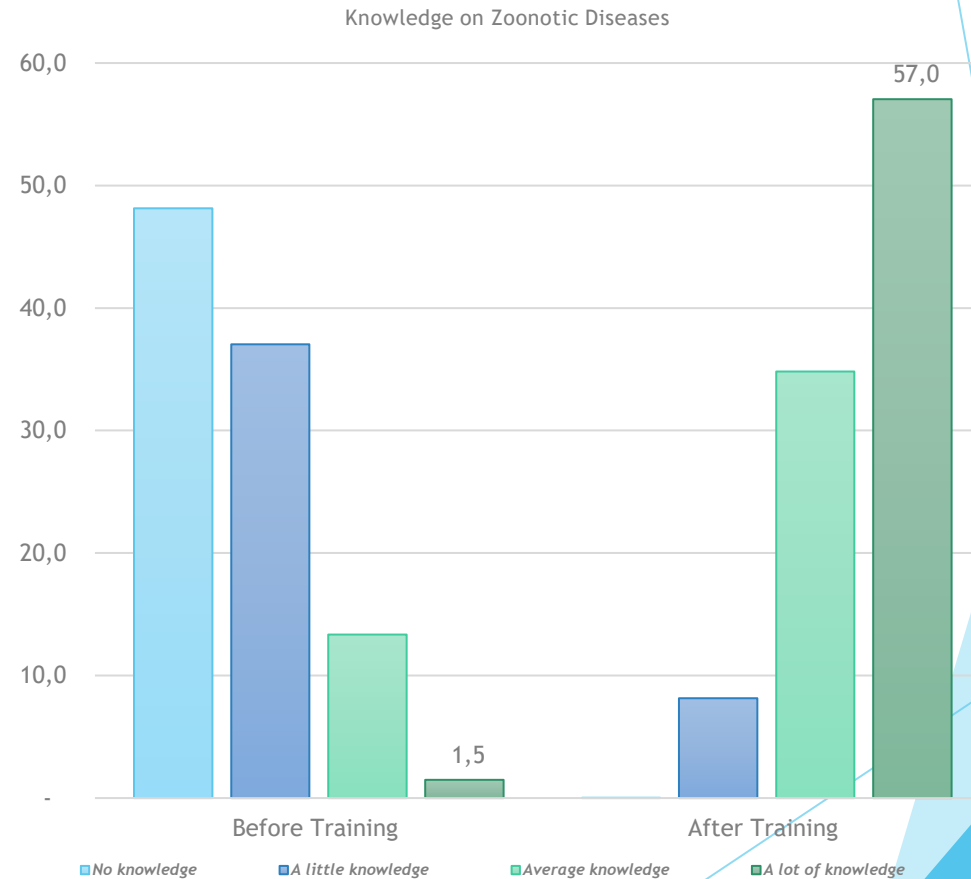
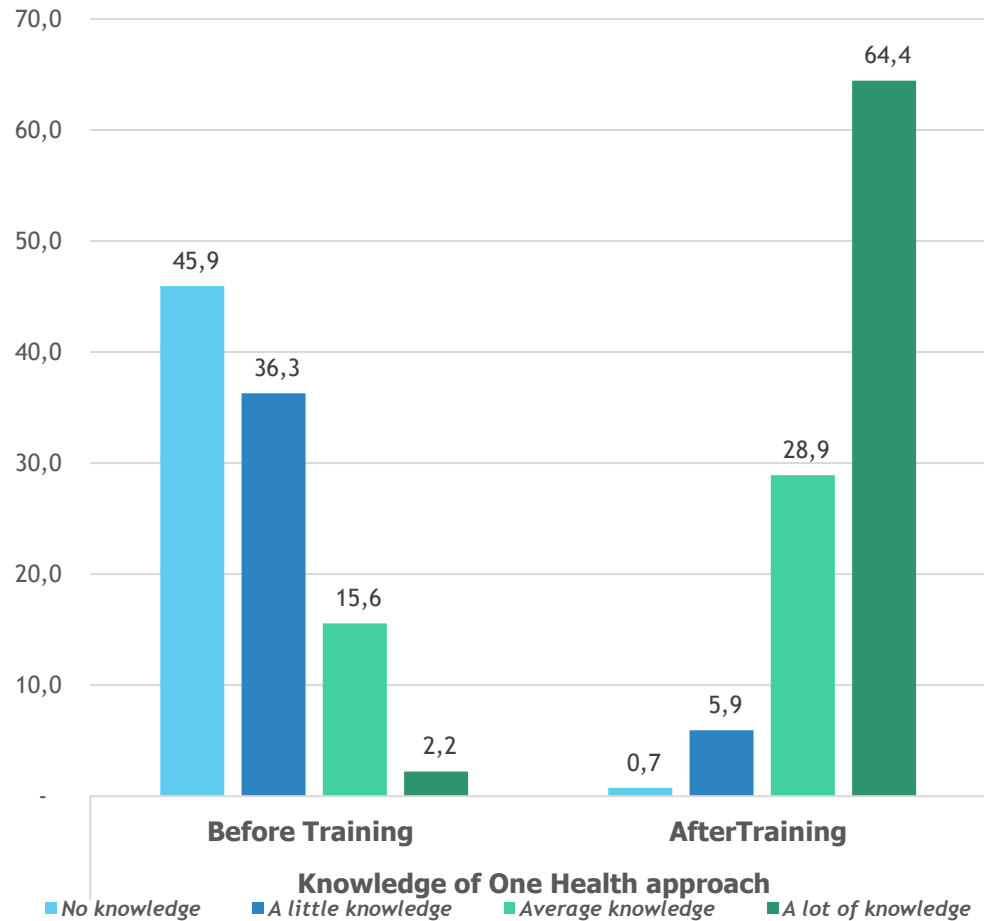
Animal health care and responsible use of antibiotics



Impact: Improved the livestock farmers' knowledge about the proper use of antibiotics

Project outcomes

One Health and zoonotic diseases management



Impact: Enhanced understanding of One Health approach and zoonotic diseases mgt.

Challenges and recommendations

Challenges

- ▶ Financial constraints such as: shelter, water canalisation
- ▶ Shortage of animal feeds and a lack of skills in feed storage and manufacturing
- ▶ Limited access to AW education, information and trainings
- ▶ Farmers expectation such as funds, animal purchase
- ▶ Focus of public vets on sector agendas prioritizing on sector-specific work rather than animal welfare-related tasks

Recommendations

- ▶ Continuous follow-up and support financially the poor trained farmers (water, shelters)
- ▶ Continue animal welfare awareness and similar projects/trainings in other districts of Rwanda
- ▶ Establish AW standards demonstration farms and farmers platforms
- ▶ Distributing designed training materials to many farmers

Story during our practical trainings



THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

ANY QUESTION??

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