

First name/Surname: John Speke Katende
Telephone: +39 3289755845
E-mail: johnspeke.katende@studenti.unipd.it
Nationality: Ugandan
Date of birth: 31/10/1996
Place of birth: Nabweru, Uganda



Education:

- PhD student in Animal and Food Science (2023-)
- Master student in Animal Breeding and Genetics (2019-2021)
- Bachelor student in Agriculture (2015-2018)

Research areas:

- Dairy cattle
- Genetics and Genomics
- Bioinformatics

Brief description of Ph.D project

There is an increasing interest amongst dairy farmers to unravel the causes of the increasing incidence of twin calvings. Indeed, twinning leads to economic losses in the dairy herd. Twinning rate can be influenced by both environmental and genetic factors. It is not yet clear to what degree the factors influence the trait in the Italian Holstein cattle population.

My PhD project will focus on the Italian Holstein population, in collaboration with the Associazione Nazionale Allevatori della Razza Frisona, Bruna e Jersey Italiana (ANAFIBJ, Cremona, Italy). In particular, the project will be developed to: a) investigate the incidence of twinning rate in the Holstein population and its trend

in the last decades; b) explore environmental factors affecting twinning rate; c) evaluate its impact on traits of economic relevance in the dairy herd; and d) investigate the genetic determinism of twinning by implementing classical genetics approaches. In addition, the opportunity of exploring novel methodologies in animal genomics will be evaluated to further deepen the genetic aspects of twinning in Italian Holstein population.

Supervisor:

Prof. Mauro Penasa

Co-supervisor:

Dr. Angela Costa (University of Bologna, Italy)

Publications: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=_dmqnRMAAAAJ&hl=en