

# Review of: "Improving agriculture and food security in Africa: Can the one health approach be the answer?"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

This article explored the One Health approach for contributing to food security and sustainable food systems. As low food security in SSA is not due to simply one factor, this 3-prong approach is important to consider. The three factors in the one health approach are environmental, human and animal health. On page 4, it is noted that in most African communities, livestock plays a major role in daily livelihood. It might be helpful to temper the sentence a bit by indicating in some African communities instead of most. The reason is that in many rural communities in SSA, village residents do not have the financial resources to purchase and feed livestock and these residents are highly impacted by low food security and lack of protein in their diets. Where they may experience challenges with animal health is by people in the village who do own animals taking those animals to local water sources and then residents using these water sources as their drinking and bathing supply. So, interventions in those communities will look different from interventions in communities where many people are housing animals at their home. Au notes that African swine fever has a 100% fatality rate. It would be helpful to say whether that rate is in humans, animals, or both. Au notes that One Health approach supports environmentally friendly practices and it would be helpful to say what some of these practices are. For example, it is well documented that agrochemicals are related to health problems and depletion of soil integrity, but use of agrochemicals are not mentioned in the article. Organic farming methods are an environmentally friendly alternative. Many of the One Health programs are research programs, which are much needed. It would be helpful to give an example of a bottom up One Health program that is implemented by farmers with assistance from someone such as a program officer. Last, it is worthy to mention that political support for One Health must have some kind of balance. While funds are surely needed and these could come through national support, sites should be cautious that if a project is supported by a particular politician, when that politician is no longer in office, the new one may view the program as one from their predecessor and shut it down because it is not from them. Nice to have the summary of One Health initiatives in Africa. Thank you.