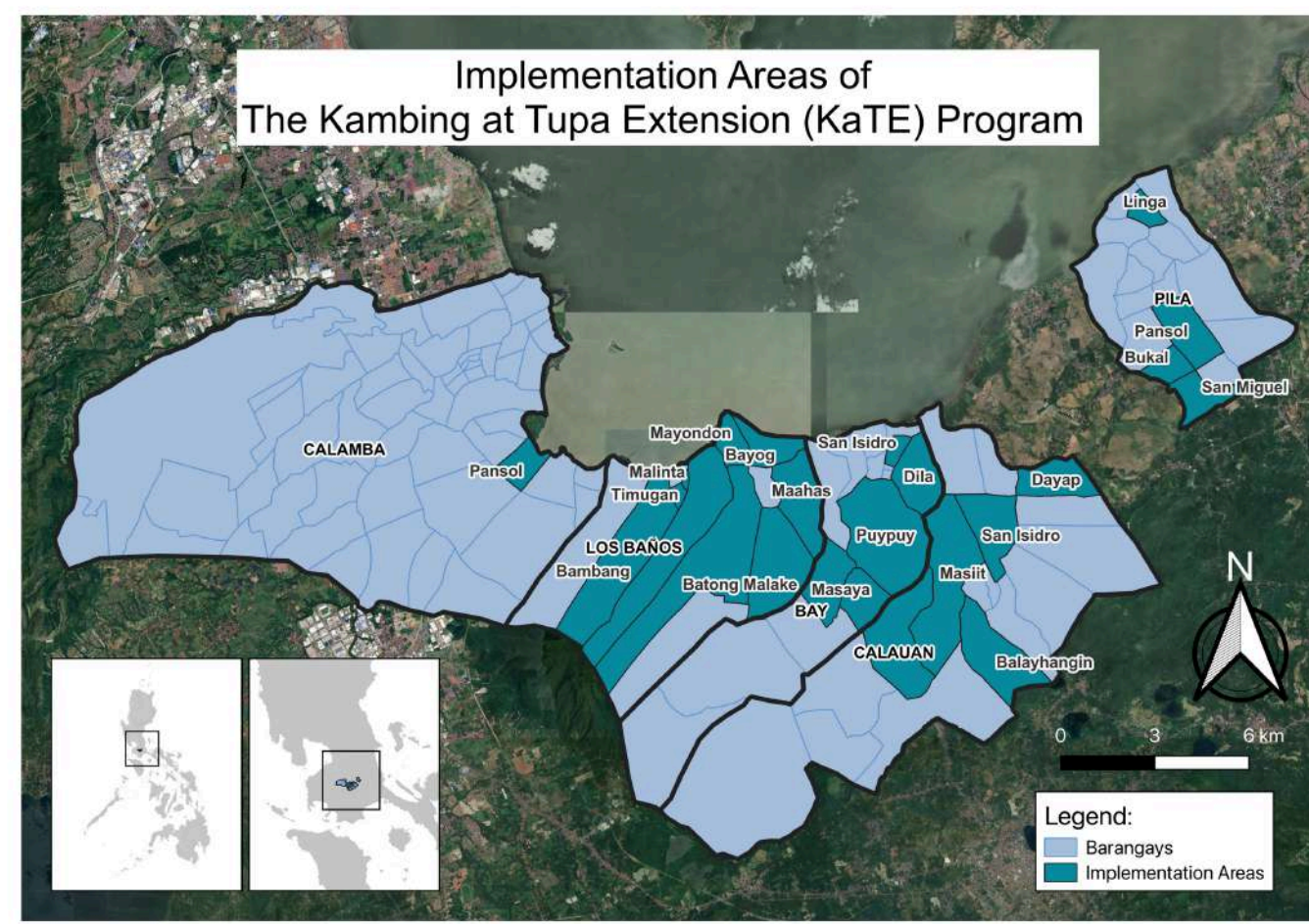
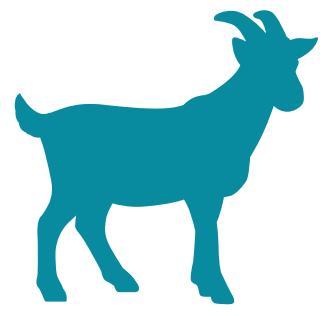


## Introduction



Started in 2017, the KaTE program provides **free veterinary services** to **small ruminant raisers** in rural and underserved communities



Approximately **1200 goats and 30 sheep** provided with veterinary services



Assisted over **80 small ruminant raisers**



**24 barangays** across **5 municipalities** of the province of Laguna



Conducted in **partnership** with **LGUs**

The program offers **hands-on clinical experience** for veterinary students under the supervision of veterinarians.

### Workflow of student activities during each farm visit



#### Patient ID

Breed determination, age estimation using dentition



#### Physical exam

Body condition and anemia scoring



#### Medication

Vit supplementation and deworming

1

2

3

4

5

6



#### History taking

Interview on animal health and management



#### Sample collection

Collection of samples for laboratory processing



#### Client education

## Objectives

- To identify key themes of students' participation in the KaTE program
- To assess the influence of the KaTE program on students' Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes (KSA)



## Materials and Methods



Descriptive, cross-sectional study using a KSA framework



49 veterinary student clinicians who participated in the KaTE program in the past academic year (A.Y. 2024-2025)



Online survey containing 5-point Likert scale items (1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree) and short answer questions



Descriptive statistics, thematic analysis for open-ended responses

## Results

Based on **qualitative responses** from the students, several **key themes** emerged:

#### Clinical skills development

"Being exposed to real-world cases made theoretical lessons stick better."

#### Teamwork and adaptability

"We had to be flexible—sometimes our assigned roles changed the moment we arrived."

#### Communication and empathy

"I learned how to explain health conditions in terms the farmers could understand."

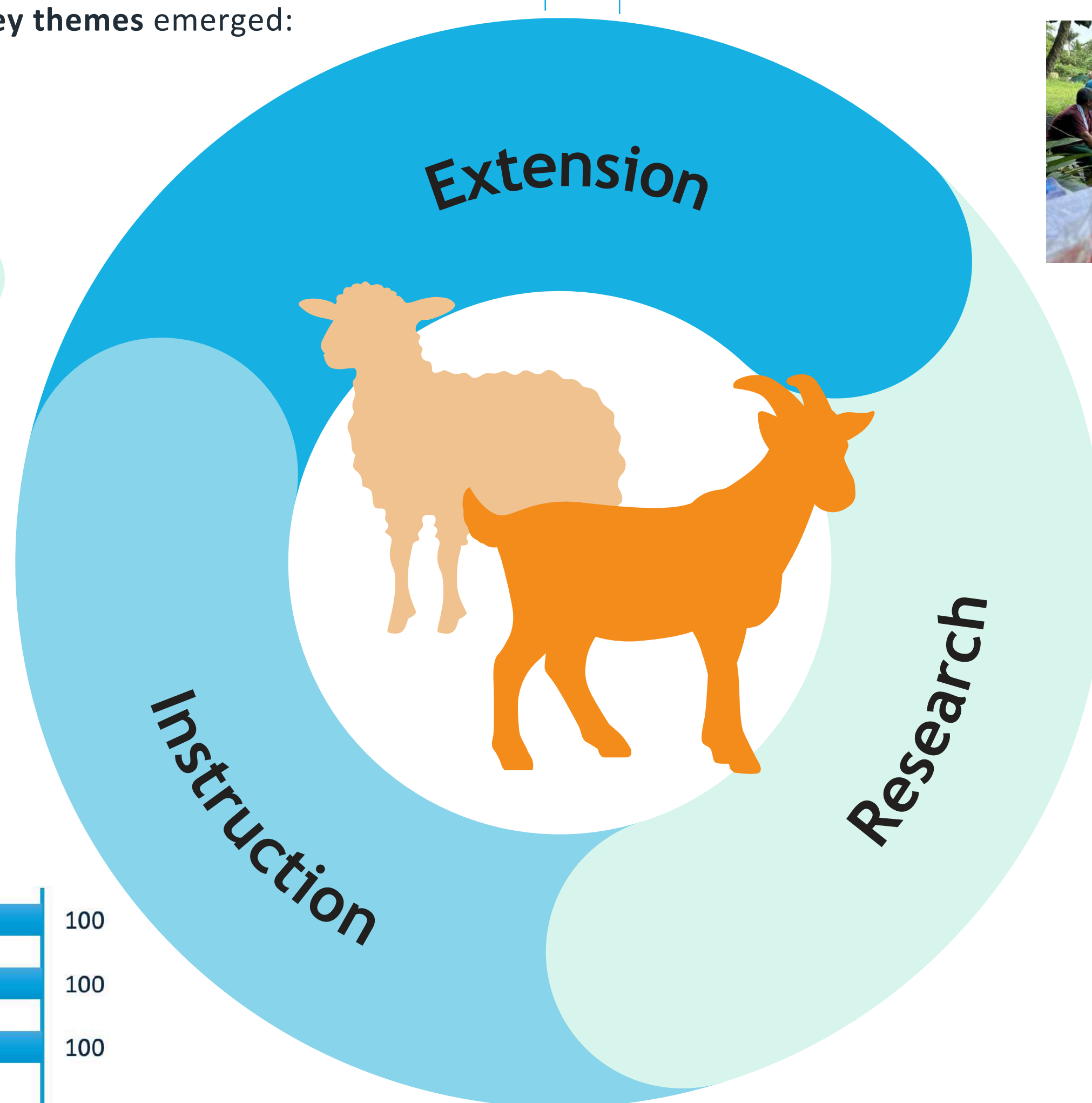
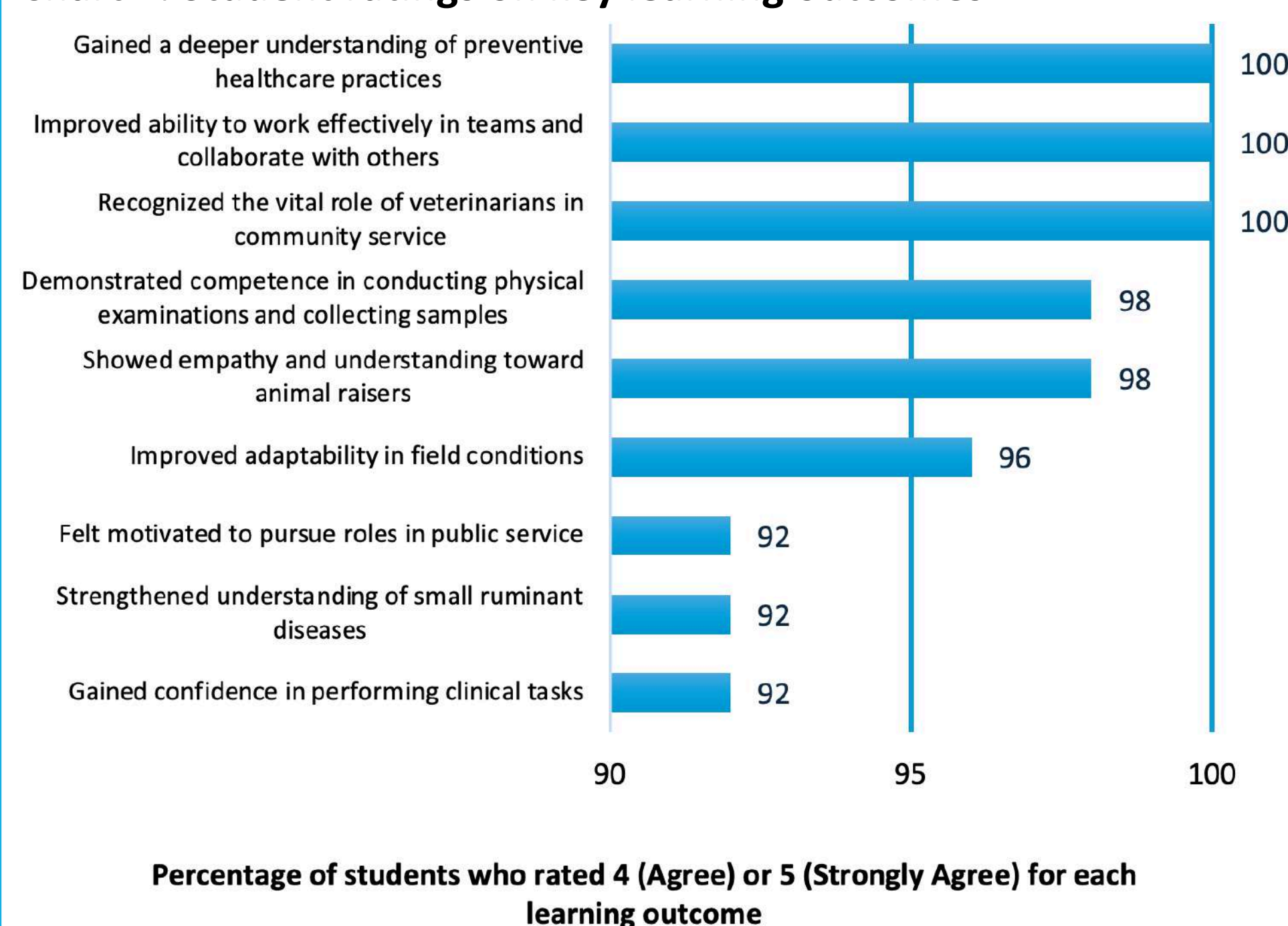
#### Impact of the program

"Seeing how we could directly help animals and farmers was transformative."

#### Motivation and purpose

"Hearing the farmers thank us reminded me that we are making real-world impact."

**Chart 1. Student ratings on key learning outcomes**



The **KaTE program** fulfills the three major functions of the university.

**Student-led seminars** have been conducted through the KaTE program to increase farmer awareness and engagement.

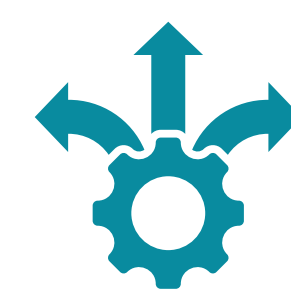
**1 publication and 7 undergraduate theses** have already been generated through the KaTE program.

## Discussion



**Opportunities** to engage with **communities** and **animals** reinforce students' **professional identity** and remind them of the **values** that originally drew them to the veterinary profession.

(Orchard et al., 2025)



**Outreach medicine** demonstrates that participation in outreach activities enhances veterinary students' **preparedness, clinical competence, and confidence**.

(Lynch et al., 2023)



By providing **authentic learning environments** and **direct client interactions**, **outreach programs** serve as valuable **experiential platforms** for developing practical skills and professional self-assurance.

(Lynch et al., 2023; University of Arizona, 2024)



## Conclusions

- Students reported **enhanced understanding of small ruminant health and preventive care**, **improved technical proficiency** in PE and sample collection, and **strengthened communication and empathy** toward farmers.
- Student participation** in the KaTE Program fostered **significant growth** across the KSA domains.



## Future Directions



**Institutionalize** the KaTE program as an **integral component** of the **veterinary curriculum** to ensure **sustainability** and **continuity** of **community-based training**.



**Expand outreach activities** and **conduct more seminars** with broader geographic coverage, supported by **strengthened collaborations** with **LGUs** and **partner institutions**.

## Contact Information

Ian Cary B. Prado  
University of the Philippines Los Baños  
Email: [ibprado@up.edu.ph](mailto:ibprado@up.edu.ph)  
Phone: (049) 536-6901

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## Acknowledgements

