

**Ali Ndiwalana**

Department of Information Technology  
Mid Sweden University

Directorate for ICT Support  
Makerere University

# Major research themes

- ICT4D
- Mobile phones and other low cost technologies
- Small and informal businesses in developing countries
  - Technology needs and adoption

# Related ICT4D research themes

- Project monitoring and evaluation
- Impact assessment
- Indicators
- Policies and politics
- Development economics

# Research plans

- Literature review
- Survey of MSEs in two areas (urban & rural) to ascertain current information practices and needs
- Design projects to respond to some of these need
  - “Return on investment”
  - “Productivity paradox”

# On-going research

- Completed SME survey in conjunction with Research ICT Africa in 14 African countries (3,967 SMEs)
  - SME E-access and E-usage Index
  - Impact of ICTs on private sector development
  - How ICTs can contribute to a vibrant SME sector and economic growth in the context of developing economies?

# Amategaitu (“our milk”)

- Agricultural information system for a cooperative of dairy farmers
  - Overhaul current milk value chain
  - Aggregate their produce > benefit from economies of scale
  - Enhance farmer productivity and quality of milk that they produce
  - Farmer production records (banks, government, development partners, etc.)
  - Web-based, but leverage mobile phone (currently SMS) for last mile of connectivity