

SKILL ENHANCEMENT & GENERATION OF SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FOR PIG FARMERS IN SOUTH GARO HILLS DISTRICT OF MEGHALAYA

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Introduction: The village Ashugre is located in Chokpot C.D. Block of South Garo Hills District in the State of Meghalaya in India This village has 78 household with around 650 people and most of the villagers are small/marginal farmers. Agriculture is the primary occupation of the village. Backyard Pig rearing is done as subsidiary occupation by the villagers. Majority of tribal rural household rears 1-2 pigs with least capital venture under traditional free and semi-scavenging system by utilizing locally available feed resources. Pig performance and productivity of non-descript local pigs under prevailing smallholder traditional pig production system is very low and poor exploitation of production potential due to shortage of feed and feed crops and high cost of commercial pig feed. It took proximately 1.5-2 years for hill pig farmers to reared weaned pigs to reach market weight of 45-50 kg. These breeds need to be replaced by superior breeds but the high yielding exotic pig breeds cannot perform well under sub-optimal nutritional and managerial condition within this stressful environment of South Garo Hills.

Background/ existing problems: Some of the main problems face by the pig farmers are lack of superior pig breed, lack of scientific knowledge, lack of veterinary and extension services, non-availability of vaccine and deficiency diseases among the pigs, which leads to small litter size, longer inter-farrowing period, poor growth rate, higher mortality rate and Inferior food conversion ratio (FCR).

Initiatives/Strategies / KVK Intervention: Presently the farmers are practicing pig rearing with indigenous methods and with non-descriptive pig breed which results in small Litter size, longer inter-farrowing period, poor growth rate and Inferior food conversion ratio (FCR). This leads to lower economic return to the farmers as a source of livelihood. Therefore, introducing an established pig breed with scientific rearing system is desirable. To address these issues, the Project entitled “Skill enhancement & Generation of Sustainable Livelihood for Pig Farmers in South Garo Hills district of Meghalaya” funded by NABARD under FSPF with a grant of Rs. 6.65920 Lakh was implemented by KVK South Garo Hills in 2022 in the village with an aim to improve the pig rearing system which will subsequently enhance the income generation of the pig farmers. Under this project, various intervention programmes were undertaken which includes:

1. Training programmes on scientific methods of pig farming covering common managerial aspect such as housing, feeding and health care management.

2. Introduction of improved breed Gunghroo.
3. Providing mineral mixtures to the selected beneficiaries.
4. Conducted regular deworming cum vaccination programmes for pigs to reduce the mortality rate among the pigs.

Output of the project: The project brings a significant change among the pig farmers of the village. With the introduction of improved breed Ghungroo and scientific pig management, the production performance increases significantly as compared to the non-descript breed and the farmers are now able to earn higher income than before. The details of parameters are tabulated as follows:

Parameters	Before Implementation	After Implementation	Remarks
Type of breed reared	Local non-descript pig	Improved pig breed Ghungroo	The beneficiaries of the pig farmers show gratitude to KVK-SGH for implementing this project which brings positive changes in the pig rearing system of the village.
Prewaning growth rate	60g/day (average)	120 (average)	
Post weaning growth rate(g/day)	140 (average)	160 (average)	
Growth of 10 months (Market age)	40 kg (average)	60 kg (average)	
Mortality rate	Higher due to lack of medication	Reduce due to regular deworming & timely vaccination along with supplementation of mineral mixtures in feed	
Litter size per farrowing	4-5	8-11	
Farmers knowledge on pig rearing	Unscientific or traditional knowledge	Farmers gain scientific knowledge of feeding, housing and deworming of pigs	
Income generation	Low	Higher than before due to improve performance of the Gunghroo breed	

Economics of the pig farming (per pair) before and after implementation of the project:

	Gross cost per pair of pigs (Managerial)	Gross return	Net Return	BC Ratio
Before implementation	8000	15000	12000	1.87
After implementation	14000.00	45000.00	17000.00	3.21

Impact of the Project: The farmers of the nearby villages are very much interested to raise cross breed pig (Ghungroo) because of its fast growth and overall production. Since it is a new breed for this area many farmers are approaching to KVK for gathering information about the source and from where to get the piglets.

Conclusion: It may be concluded that low input tribal backyard pig production with scientific care and management system and quality indigenous pig breeds like “Ghungroo” has a huge potential scope for nutritional security and sustainable livelihood under changing climate condition of South Garo Hills, Meghalaya.

Action Photographs of the project



Distribution of piglets to the selected beneficiaries of the project



Animal Health Camp to treat sick animals and distribution of mineral mixtures to improve the growth rate of pigs



Regular follow up of the project by NABARD General Manager & DDM along with KVK staff



Sow with healthy newborn piglets