PIG PRODUCTION SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH AND CONSTRAINTS FACED BY FARMERS- A SURVEY REPORT

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to analyze the current pig production system in the state of Andhra Pradesh and various constraints faced by farmers of the state towards adoption of scientific technologies of pig rearing. A total of 400 farmers were covered from 4 districts of the state and 10 villages in each district. The major constraints perceived by the farmers were inadequate knowledge of scientific feeding (87.00 %) housing (65.45%), breeding and health cover measures. In breeding aspect, the major shortfall was non availability of upgraded variety of pigs (78.13%) which are good in production potential in the local market of the remote villages. There was lack of knowledge of identifying infection and contagious diseases (93.25%), advantages of proper cleaning of pig shed (73.69%), non-availability of timely veterinary facilities (66.33%), poor economic condition (76.00%) of the farmers was also a major constraint for adopting scientific technologies regarding pig rearing. Considering these facts it is necessary to formulate suitable strategy for various extension activities in rural remote areas of the state to ameliorate the constraints perceived by the farmers.

KEY WORDS: Pig production system, constraints, Andhra Pradesh

INTRODUCTION

Pig farming in India is primarily a small scale unorganized rural activity and is an integer part of diversified agriculture, particularly in tribal belts of the country. However pig husbandry is fast becoming a main stay of the livestock production industry among a large number of farmers, particularly those belong to weaker section. Consumer level acceptance of pork has also increased significantly over the years. Particularly for the pork products like ham, sausage, salami etc. The sale price of pork is also very high in the state, which varies from Rs 90 to 100 per kg. The manure produced by it is utilized locally for fertilizing the field crops production since presently the consumer preference is more for the product/commodities produced on organic manure. This aspect of pig production is another area that has tremendous future scope. In addition the pig also produces another valuable by product i.e bristle which is used in brush making industries.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in four districts of Andhra Pradesh, under State plan research project entitled "Pig production and pork processing under scientific system through farmers participation and study of growth performance of Large White Yorkshire pigs in farmers pig farms". From each district, 10 remote villages and from each village, 10 farmers were selected randomly covering a total of 400 farmers. They were asked to give most important technological constraints faced by them towards adoption of scientific pig husbandry technology. A questionnaire was prepared covering various aspects of pig production technology like breeding, feeding, management and health cover measures and the information was collected by personal discussion with the farmers and the results were analysed. The survey was conducted mostly in the remote rural areas of the state.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The survey revealed that the pig is considered to be the most important livestock and ranks third place in Andhra Pradesh. In general, most of the farmers rear local (indigenous) non-descript pigs for meat purpose and the dung is used as manure in their agricultural field. The non-descript pigs are poor in productive as well as reproductive traits. However, some farmers were found to rear crossbred pigs, which have good production potential. But most of the farmers tend to avoid breeding of pigs due to non- availability of desirable variety of pig that may ensure a profitable return. The availability of crossbred piglets is very limited because most of the farmers of the state are fattener farmers. The farmers are having poor knowledge of scientific

rearing of pig. This result agreed with report of Tiwari(2001). The constraints perceived by the farmers regarding pig rearing are presented in Table1.

Table1. Constraints faced by the farmers regarding various aspects of pig rearing

Constraints	Percentage
1. Lack of knowledge of scientific feeding.	87.00
2. Feeds are costly	69.23
3. Poor economic condition of the farmers	76.00
4. Lack of knowledge of scientific housing	65.45
5. Lack of knowledge about advantages of proper cleaning of pig shed.	73.69
6. Non availability of crossbred upgraded variety in the remote local market.	78.13
7. Lack of knowledge of identifying infectious and contagious diseases.	93.25
8. Non availability of timely veterinary facilities.	66.33

The farmers are not aware of scientific feeding practices to exploit the genetic potential of the animals. Animals are mostly scavenging (56.25%) in nature (Table2) whether crossbred or local. These results were at par with Sihag et.al.,(1996).

Table2. Type of feeding system in the surveyed village

System of rearing	Total farm family	System followed	Percentage
1. Scavenging	400	225	56.25
2. Scavenging with kitchen waste.	400	125	31.25
3. Rice polish boiled with vegetable waste/ kitchen waste	400	50	12.50

However, some farmers supplemented their pigs with kitchen waste or vegetable waste like cabbage leaf, cauliflower leaf, Brinjal, tomato, pumpkin, sweet potato etc. Few farmers provide their pigs with rice polish or broken rice. Some farmers who keep crossbred pigs include crushed maize and wheat bran in their feeding schedule. Similar type of results was also reported by regarding adoption of Animal Husbandry technology. These results were on par with Subramaniam. et.al., (1975). Due to poor economic condition of the farmers (76.00%), they are not in position to purchase balanced feed for its high price, which ranges from Rs. 9 to 10 per kg. Keeping in view of the above observations, there is a basic need for formulation of low cost scientific pig ration comprising locally available feedstuff.

Most of the farmers use locally available materials like bamboo, wooden plank and thatch grass for housing their pigs except few breeder farmers and SHGs (Table 3). The pigs are simply let loose and are allowed to pick up whatever they can get through scavenging and only in night time the pigs were given

shelter. Most of the farmers do not clean the pig shed regularly as the feacal material dumped in the shed for 15 to 30 days, which are used in their agricultural field. This causes serious health problems like pneumonia, diarrhoea and parasitic infestation of pigs. The farmers generally use feed and water troughs made of wood. Some of them use old tyres or aluminum pots. A very few of them are having pucca (concrete) feeding and water troughs. Major intervention is needed to train the farmers towards the role played by cleanliness of the shed for good health of the animals.

Generally, the farmers of Andhra Pradesh use community boars for mating of their sows/gilts. A very few number of breeder farmers existed in the state. The major constraint in the adoption of breeding practices was non availability of improved upgraded variety of pig (78.13%) in the local market. The farmers residing in the remote villages are not able to procure breeding animals from organized farms, which are located in a distant area. The farmers were also not aware of any exotic breeds of pigs available in other parts of the region. The adoption of scientific breeding practices was very poor among the respondents, these results were at par with Sihag et al.(1996). Identification, preservation and multiplication of one or two breeds have to be undertaken for up gradation of the indigenous pigs. Similarly, a pure line production farm of the indigenous pigs has also to be established to monitor the genetic advancement of indigenous pigs through selective breeding. Moreover, encouragement to breeder farmers is highly essential so that the farmers residing in remote areas can get the improved variety of pigs without coming to distant areas. The farmers should be made aware of the improved variety of pigs, proper heat detection and timely mating of their sows.

Table 3. Percentage of farmer using different kinds of materials for housing

Floor			Roof			Boundary Wall		
Katcha	Pucca	Wooden	Tina	Thatch Grass	Others	Bamboo	Pucca	Wooden
45.26	20.58	34.26	54.84	29.03	16.13	50.48	5.81	38.70

The survey revealed that the common diseases of pigs in the farmer's, field were, swine fever, pneumonia, piglet diarrhea, foot and mouth disease (FMD), skin infection, poisoning etc. Most of the farmers were not aware of vaccination against diseases like swine fever and FMD. Parasitic load was found to be the highest in the scavenging animals (84.8%). The farmers were not aware of identification of contagious and infectious diseases and isolation of sick animals. This indicates that the farmers need training on managmental aspect as well as preventive health care measures of the animals. It has been found during the survey that there are no scientific slaughterhouses available in the state and the pigs are slaughtered and sold unhygienically in the market.

Appropriate measures should be taken to ameliorate the constraints faced by the farmers. In order to enhance pig production in the state, some of the major approaches would be :

1. To develop a more effective understanding of the availability of pig genetic resources and their conservation and management. Encouragement should be given to establish some breeding units so that upgraded varieties can also be made available in the remote areas.

2. To determine the available feed resources and utilization, identification of non-conventional feeds for cost effective pig husbandry.

3. To develop suitable disease surveillance, monitoring and forecasting system and to develop control measures.

4. More importance to be given for organization of extension and veterinary services including the supply of credit to the needy farmers and marketing facilities so that the farmers can come forward for setting up of pig breeding farms which can boost up the pork production for uplifting the rural economy. A rational pricing policy should also be maintained so that the farmers can get justified price for their animal.

5. Steps to be taken to construct a large scale slaughter house at the capital city and mini slaughter houses at every district head quarter for efficient slaughtering, processing and storage of pork products.

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