

SUCCESS STORY OF A TRIBAL PIG FARMER OF MAHARASHTRA

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INSPIRING JOURNEY OF A TRIBAL PIG FARMER FROM MODEST START TO COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

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PROBLEMS/CONSTRAINTS

Mr. Raghu Karbat is a tribal farmer from Brahmangaon, Kanchad in the coastal district of Palghar, Maharashtra. Initially he faced several challenges in his pig farming venture. He was rearing Large White Yorkshire and local pigs in his backyard without proper management. The pigs were fed unboiled hotel waste, which often led to digestive disorders. Inbreeding within his herd further reduced litter size and affected the performance of the piglets. These issues became major obstacles during the early years of his farming journey.

INTERVENTIONS

With a strong interest in improving his livelihood, Mr. Karbat approached scientists of ICAR-CCARI, Goa for guidance in pig husbandry. He along with six fellow farmers, attended a training programme on "Scientific Pig Rearing" under the AICRP on Pig (Tribal Sub-Plan) in the year 2021 and 2025. During the training, he received practical knowledge on modern pig farming practices. He was also provided with crossbred piglets, concentrate feed, mineral supplements, and an extension folder in Marathi for easy reference. The training focused on important aspects such as selecting unrelated breeding animals to avoid inbreeding, the role of artificial insemination, vaccination, deworming, concentrate feeding of sows to improve litter size, and the importance of boiling hotel and bakery wastes before feeding. He was also advised to group pigs according to their size and age to reduce competition for feed and minimize fighting. Regular follow-up and guidance were provided to support his farming venture.

IMPACT

As a result, Mr. Karbat's farming practices improved significantly. Proper vaccination and mineral supplementation enhanced the health and growth of his pigs, reduced mortality, and improved reproduction. Today, his herd has grown to more than 120 pigs. He sells fatteners at ₹160 per kg live weight and earns a net annual income of about ₹12 lakhs. Through scientific interventions and his own dedication, Mr. Karbat has successfully transformed his small backyard piggery into a profitable and sustainable enterprise, serving as a role model for other tribal farmers in his community.



Training attended



Piglets and feed distributed



Commercially viable pig farm



Pig Shed

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