



PROPAGATION, ADOPTION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE GOYA PIG VARIETY ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF COASTAL TRIBAL FARMERS OF MAHARASHTRA

EMPOWERING TRIBAL COMMUNITIES OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH PIG FARMING

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PROBLEMS/CONSTRAINTS

Pig rearing has formed a vital component of subsistence economy among the tribal farmers in the coastal district of Palghar, Maharashtra. However, the lack of technical expertise, improper management practices, non-availability of superior germplasm as parent stock and ignorance of preventive herd healthcare measures are the primary obstacles for their economic growth. Driven by a strong aspiration to strengthen the pig farming enterprise, Mr. Narayan Ramchandra Tambde along with a group of scheduled tribe farmers from Palghar districts of Maharashtra approached ICAR-CCARI, Goa for their skill development in pig farming and good quality germplasm for breeding stock.

INTERVENTIONS

ICAR-CCARI, Goa organised two days hands-on training on Scientific Pig Farming under AICRP on Pig for a group of six farmers of Palghar during 26-27 February, 2021. At the end of the training, farmers were supplied with 30 piglets of Goya variety as breeding stock along with feed and medicinal supplements. Goya, a crossbred pig variety with inheritance of 75% Large White Yorkshire and 25% Agonda Goan pig developed specifically for the west-coastal agro-climatic condition. The pig superior growth performance with an average birth weight 1.07 kg, weaning weight 8.25 kg, and marketing weight 75.22 kg at 8 months of age. Successively, two more trainings were organized for these communities during 3-4 September, 2024 and 27-28 February, 2025 benefiting a total of 36 farmers. The skill of the farmers was improved through hands-on training for selection of breeding boars and sows, construction of pig sheds for proper drainage and ventilation, balanced cost-effective and locally available resources for feeding, deworming and vaccination with careful biosecurity measures to prevent disease outbreaks. They were also given hands-on practicals on semen collection and artificial insemination, managing farrowing, care of newborn piglets, castration of male piglets, etc. To enable a well-supported and strong implementation phase, ICAR-CCARI provided the participating farmer community with a total of 130 piglets of the Goya variety as breeding stock, forming the founding population of their herds. In addition, quality feed, mineral mixture and medicinal supplements were supplied as a necessary input to support early herd establishment and ensure healthy growth during the critical first phase of farming.



IMPACT

Adoption of balanced nutrition, proper deworming, vaccination, and hygienic management practices led to significant improvements in live weight, herd health, and reproductive efficiency, resulting in a substantial reduction in mortality and an increase in herd size (30 to over 120 pigs). The Goya pig has emerged as a highly suitable crossbred pig variety for small and medium scale farming. It demonstrated superior feed conversion efficiency and attains a live weight of 75-80 kg in eight months at marketing age, which was a significant advantage for farmers seeking early returns on their investment. It also recorded a litter size of 8-10 piglets per farrowing, ensuring a steady and reliable supply of piglets for both breeding and fattening. Farmers were able to sell their fattening pigs at ₹160 per kg live weight, earning higher returns with annual incomes of around ₹7.5 lakh to ₹12 lakh. Improved market linkages and establishment of farm-level pork outlets (Angel pig farm) further enhanced profitability. This success not only strengthened individual farmers' livelihoods but also created a positive impact at the community level, as progressive farmers became role models who motivated neighbouring farmers and rural youth to adopt scientific piggery practices promoting sustainable livestock-based livelihoods.



Piglets, feed and medicinal supplements distributed



Pig farm in Brahmsgaon, Kanchad, Palghar



Pig farm in Brahmsgaon, Kanchad, Palghar



Pig farm in Suponde, Palghar



Trainings organized at ICAR-CCARI, Old Goa



Pig farm in Brahmanpada, Khunavade, Palghar

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