



Economic settlement of tribals through piggery

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ABSTRACT

The study makes an attempt to assess the way for tribal empowerment through pig farming, particularly in terms of income and social status. The results indicate that pig farming may be one important tool for tribal empowerment. It is evident from the study that the socio-economic statuses of tribals are improved after pig farming. Tribals are basically ignoring section of the society and they depends on jhum cultivation in hilly areas for earning. Thus, the paper suggests that government may implement pig farming as a instrument for fighting against poverty and unemployment of rural tribals.

KEY WORDS : Empowerment, Jhumias, Livestock, Poverty and unemployment

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INTRODUCTION

Livestock sector constitutes an important part of agricultural economy (Prasad, 2001). Pigs are naturally omnivorous and are generally fed a combination of grains and protein sources (Intensive Pig Farming, 2010). Raising pigs can be pursued as a small-scale operation as basis of family meat and supplement income or it can be made into a large-scale operation. Pigs may be raised in highly controlled environments indoor, in open spaces or barns as breeding sows or grown and sold for slaughter to butcher shops (Pig Farming, 2010). Among the different livestock species, piggery is most potential source of meat production and more efficient feed converters after the broiler. Pig farming will provide employment opportunities to seasonally employed rural farmers and supplementary income to improve their living standards (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, 2007). Apart from providing meat, it is also a source of bristles and manure (Introduction of Manipur, 2010).

In view of the importance of pig farming in terms of its contribution to rural poor and possible potentials for pig rearing in our country, Government of India has initiated measures to promote the pig farming on scientific lines under its five year plans. In case of commercial piggery units, people can collect fund from banks. The scheme normally should include information on land, livestock markets,

availability of water, feeds, veterinary aid, breeding facilities, marketing aspects, training facilities, experience of the farmer and the type of assistance available from State Government Regional Pig breeding centres. As per Livestock census 2003, the pig population in the country was 139.19 lakhs of which 21.80 lakhs were cross bred/exotic pigs. There are about 158 pig breeding farms in the country run by the State Governments/UTs. Efforts are being made in consultation with Planning Commission and other appraisal agencies to initiate Integrated Piggery Development Scheme under Macro Management Scheme during 11th Five Year Plan (Piggery Development, 2010). The basic objectives of this paper are i) to analyze the possibility of economic settlement through pig farming, and ii) to assess the benefits of piggery.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Ambasa sub-division of Dhalai district of Tripura. The district consists of four sub-divisions, like, Ambasa, Kamalpur, Langtarai valley and Gandachara. The Ambasa sub-division was selected purposely since large numbers of tribals live in this area. Twelve villages were selected from the subdivision by using stratified random sampling and from each village ten samples were collected through the random sampling. The respondents were selected from each identified village in consultation with local person and a few community members of the area concerned. Thus, the total sample consisted of 120 respondents where all are tribal because in Ambasa subdivision 95 per cent people are tribal

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