

## 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 consultantation 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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and in this sub-division government is running piggery programme for rehabilitation of tribal people. Data were collected by the investigator with the help of a well prepared, structured interview schedule employing personal contract. Thereafter, data were analyzed, tabulated and interpreted in the light of the objective of the study.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Piggy farming is a traditional activity but in survey area it converts into a new look.

Table 1 shows that piggery is useful for economic settlement of the tribal community.

Table 2 shows that rural tribals basically depend on jhum cultivation for earning of income.

**Table 1: Usefulness of pig farming is for economic settlement**

Sr. No.	Status	Number of Tribals	Percentage
1.	Yes	120	100
2.	No	0	0
Total		120	100

Source: Field survey

Table 3 shows that income level of tribal people increased very rapidly after piggery.

**Table 2 : Major earning sources of the tribals before empowerment**

Sr. No.	Major sources of income	Number of tribals	Percentage
1.	Firewood from forest	30	25
2.	Jhum cultivation	78	65
3.	Agriculture	12	10
4.	Causal labour	0	0
Total		120	100

Source: Field survey

**There are various advantages of pig farming as:**

- The pig has got highest feed conversion

efficiency *i.e.* they produce more live weight gain from a given weight of feed than any other class of meat producing animals except broilers.

- The pig can utilise wide variety of feed stuffs *viz.*, grains, forages, damaged feeds and garbage and convert them into valuable nutritious meat.
- Pig farming requires small investment on buildings and equipments.
- Pig manure is widely used as fertilizer for agriculture farms and fish ponds.
- Pig farming provides quick returns since the marketable weight of fatteners can be achieved with in a period of 6-8 months.
- Pork is most nutritious with high fat and low water content and has got better energy value than that of other meats.

The above analysis indicates that tribal people are more benefited from the piggery. Piggery improves the economic conditions of the poor jhumias. Jhumias are basically depends on firewood's and shifting cultivation for earning their subsistence income. Previously children of jhumias are facing various types of problems like malnutrition, illiteracy etc. Shifting cultivation is not only risky for biodiversity of nature but also acts as deforestation. Piggery is able to empower the rural tribals in such level that they can able to send their children. Table 3 shows that before piggery farming 100 percent tribals have income less than Rs. 2000 but after farming it decreases to 15 per cent. Piggery improves the social status of the tribals. Previously when they were depended on jhum cultivation, at that time they were just disconnected from the outside world. After piggery farms they are able to know about various programmes of government for empowering them and now they can easily communicate with outsider people.

**Table 3 : Impact of piggery on income level of rural tribals**

Sr. No.	Income level of tribals before settlement ( Rs.)	Number of tribals	Percentage	Income level of tribals after settlement ( Rs.)	Number of tribals	Percentage
1.	Below 500	0	0	Below 500	0	0
2.	500-1000	56	46.66	500-1000	0	0
3.	1000-2000	64	53.33	1000-2000	35	29.16
4.	2000-5000	0	0	2000-5000	65	54.16
5.	Above 5000	0	0	Above 5000	20	16.66
Total		120	100		120	100

Source: field survey

**Conclusion:**

Poverty and unemployment are the basic problems which are facing by the rural tribals in Tripura. Piggery shows them a new hope for better life. Jhum cultivation is the major source of income for jhumias. Pig farming is able to change the socio-economic status of tribal jhumias. Now they are earning more income and able to send their children in school. The chief benefits of pig farming are the higher price of pig meat in local market and at the same time farms can easily collect meat for domestic purpose. Therefore it may helpful for checking the malnutrition problem among the children and efficient tool for empowerment of the jhumias.

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