

## **Title: Making Pig Farming as a Way to Earn Livelihood.**

**Category:** Animal husbandry

**Challenge:** Animal Husbandry plays a significant role in development of India's economy and in the socio-economic development of the country. This sector also plays a significant role in supplementing family incomes and generating profitable employment in the rural context, mostly, among the landless labourers, small and marginal farmers and women. Besides, this sector is providing cheap nutritional food to millions of people. Meanwhile, Livestock are the best insurance against the rapid changes in the climate and extreme events like drought, famine and other natural calamities. Livestock rearing is the major livelihood source for rural farmers subsequent to the agricultural activities. Agriculture and livestock rearing are like twins for farmers.

Even then, this sector is facing development issues like demand – supply gap of green fodder, diminishing grazing lands, lack of knowledge on animal rearing practices, infertility problem and insufficient processing and marketing facilities in most of the rural farmers. To overcome these backlogs, RKVY project is allocating fund to improve the situation of Animal Husbandry department. During 2018-19 WBCADC, KVK, Sonamukhi has given one Piggery unit to “Chowbetya Maa Durga SGSY/NRLM dal ” to uplift the socio-economic status of the farmers and farming family of that area.

**Initiative:** The area named Chowbetya at Bishnupur block surrounded by small and marginal farmers who mostly belongs to Schedule Caste and Schedule tribe category. Being a red lateritic zone, without assured irrigation level of agricultural yield is not satisfactory. Therefore, the issues of climate change and extreme events like drought, flood etc. have a very drastic and adverse effect on the livelihood of the farmers. Livestock plays a very significant role to combat such issues, especially piggery, which is very much suitable for this particular area. Pig is an omnivorous animal. Concentrated feed is always good, but other than this concentrated feed, pig can easily survive on hotel or kitchen waste which can reduce the cost of the concentrate feed to 20 to 30%, as in any livestock farming more than half expenditure is due to feed. Pigs are having a gestation period of 114 days normally, and highly prolific among meat producing livestock. With all these advantages having in think-tank, WBCADC, KVK, Sonamukhi, provided one RKVY Progeny Pig farming unit to “Chowbetya Maa Durga SGSY/NRLM dal” on 2018-19. A total outlay of Rs. 308000/ has given to the group after 75% subsidy on total project cost. But before giving the unit, WBCADC, KVK, provided hands on training to group member on numerous topics like: Importance of scientific approach of pig farming, skill of holding the pig and drenching the pig in proper way, how to prepare balanced feed ration with locally available feed materials for different aged pig, how to take care of pregnant pigs, as well as new born kids, identification and preventive measures to be taken for the infectious diseases of pigs. Other than these broad topics some specific topics were also covered viz; practical demonstration of control and holding of pigs for drenching /medication/injection and others, cleaning of pig shed and utensils, use of mineral, vitamin mixture in the pig ration, cutting of needle teeth of new born piglets, need of feeding green fodder suitable for pig and their cultivation practices etc. After completion of four days training, the participants were taken for exposure visit to expose them to real life situation which was very inspiring and informative; this provided them an opportunity to clear doubts.

**Key result / insight/ interesting fact:** After analysing the situation, it was found that trainees were not aware of treating their pig farm in scientific method and on business mode. Their causal approach of farming causes loss which they were not aware of. There was a knowledge gap among the trainees between their existing causal type of pig farming and professional approach of pig farming. The training schedule was organized with an objective of empowering the rural small and marginal farmer through pig farming. Subsequently after completion of training it was found that, trainees are aware of running their pig unit on commercial mode, aware of keeping books and records of the farm, confident about plan for future expansion of the farm.

**Impact:** Before engaging in pig farming unit the group members were making one time use meal plate from ‘Shal’ leaves. For the raw material of the plate, they were fully depended on forest. But supply of raw material was not abundant throughout the year. Sometimes it was just sufficient and sometimes due to fire, there was no supply, consequently which hampered their income. Moreover, most of the group members were marginal farmer or some were landless labourers. According to the group leader Mr. Saraswati Kundu “Our previous income was Rs. 15,000/month, but after receiving the pig unit it raised Rs. 26,000/month. At the beginning we received five female and one male T& D adult pig. From this unit after every 115 days, we got 12-14 pig let on an average. The KVK officials has helped us tremendously by their regular visit, tagging for insurance, disease related advice etc. Now a days we are selling one pig let of age two to three month at Rs. 3000/ . Peak season for selling is mostly winter and due to good quality pig let; our unit produce has got a huge demand at the market.”

**Lesson learned:** Actual objectives of RKVY scheme behind setting up of progeny pig farm were to meet the market demand at West Bengal. Being under red-lateritic agro-ecological zone, Chowbetya, Bishnupur block and also due to prevailing SC and ST community as its dwellers, pig unit at this area has given very good performance. WBCADC KVK is having a first-hand experience in the farming of indigenously developed breed like T& D in south Bengal with satisfactory result on the production traits at KVK farms and at the village level. Therefore, WBCADC KVK suggested particularly this breed under RKVY scheme for this self-help group. Very satisfactorily they have reared the pigs in a modest way with an aim of multiplication of number. At present day, even the fund flow from RKVY scheme is over, they are running the unit on their own and the socio-economic status of the group members has also increased to certain level with the indicating parameters at their surroundings like: installation of gas oven over earthen oven, Pacca house over kachha house, television, good quality drinking water, better health and education for their children etc.

**Supportive quotes and Images:**



T & D breed at SHG unit



**Visit of KVK official at SHG pig unit.**

**Visit of KVK official at SHG unit for tagging of the pigs**

**Additional Information:**

Group leader: Saraswati Kundu, Contact no. 8250522550

Other Members- Tapasi Dutta, Sushrita Chel, Sonali Kundu, Archana Kundu

**Checklist**

No.	Question to consider	Yes	No
1	Is the story interesting to the target audience of the project/activity report?	Yes	
2	Does the story explain what new insights the project brings? What is the main lesson learned from the story? Does the story describe a key insight on what works and what doesn't and something that future projects could build On	Yes	
3	Does the story describe the outcomes the project produced and people who are benefitting? What changes-in skills, knowledge, attitude, practice, or policy-has the project brought about and who is benefitting from these changes?	Yes	
4	Does the story make a compelling point that people will remember? Does the story show how the project makes a difference to improving livelihoods and lessening poverty	Yes	
5	Does the story provide an interesting fact that people will remember? For example, how yield increased, how many hectares of land could become more productive from this innovation or technology?	Yes	
6	Does the story explain what kind of impact this innovation or technology could have if scaled up?	Yes	
7	Does the story show which partner contributed and how?	Yes	
8	Does the story include quotes from stakeholders or beneficiaries?	Yes	
9	Have I provided links to other media ( journal articles, website news, newsletter, blogs, annual reports or other Programme / projects) that also feature this story?		No
10	Have I provided the contact details of people who can provide more information?	Yes	

