

Marketing of pigs

Finisher pigs are typically marketed at the age of 8 months or around 80 kg body weight. Piglets can be sold after weaning from sow (after about 35 days of birth). In most cases, local market serves as point of sale of piglets or pork. Avenues exist for contract farming and supply of pigs to large slaughter houses. Large farms supply to dedicated customers and may also export pork cuts.

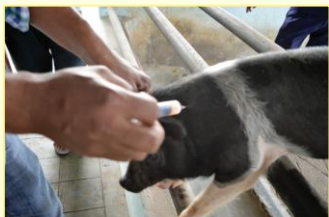
Pork product manufacture

Fresh pork can be processed to manufacture products such as sausages, ham, bacon, nuggets, momos, samosa, slice, burger patties and smoked products. The meat processing requires substantial investment on land, equipments, facilities, human resources and marketing.

Enormous opportunity exists in the value addition due to high demand for the pork products in the Indian market and export to other countries. Product processing and marketing for human consumption requires dedicated facilities and requires compliance with certain rules, guidelines and certification. Major regulation, certifications are developed and administered by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, Bureau of Indian Standards, Codex and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) certifications for preventing microbiological, chemical and physical contamination along the food supply chain.

Non-edible uses of pigs

Non-edible uses of pigs include harvesting of organs for biomedical and pharmaceutical applications, pig hair/bristle for brush making industries, fat for biodiesel production, manure for biogas and fertilizer production.



Regular vaccination, deworming & treatment



Planned reproductive management

Record keeping

One of the important activities of the pig farming and product processing is to maintain records on all activities of farm such source of animals, sale, feeding, breeding, weaning, production, culling, health management etc. Product processing essentially requires the data on pre and post slaughter operations.

Environmental management and animal welfare

Activities of the farm should aim towards reducing carbon footprint and promote animal welfare.

Funding opportunities

For undertaking scientific pig farming and pork product processing, financial support is available from Nationalized banks, NABARD, Co-operative or Regional Rural Bank, Small Farmers' Agriculture-Business Consortium, various departments of Government of India etc.



Proper biosecurity- Restricted entry to pig farm

Regular cleaning of pig sheds

Efficient manure disposal- Biogas plant at KVASU, Kerala

Pig-Fish integrated farming

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Why and How of Pig Farming ?

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Pig rearing is one of the most important occupations of rural society, especially the tribal masses of India. Pig production has potential to contribute to supplementary income when operated as a backyard venture. On the other hand, large scale intensive pig farming and product processing has immense opportunities and can provide large economic returns.



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Why to start a pig farm ?

The pig is one of the most efficient food converting animals among domesticated livestock, and can play an important role in improving the socio-economic status of the weaker sections of the society, particularly in the North-Eastern (NE) Region of the country. India has a pig population of 10.43 million, with about 38% of pigs reared in the NE states. Increasing number of non-vegetarian population and popularity of pork and its products among the public, increasing potential for export are strong factors for suggesting to start a pig farming. It has been calculated that there is a gap of about 50% between demand and supply of pork in the NE region. Besides backyard farming with few pigs,

Advantages of pig farming

Pig rearing has a potential to contribute to high economic gain.

- Pigs have one of the highest feed conversion efficiency, that is to increase more live weight gain from a given quantity of feed among domestic animals.
- Relatively low cost of rearing and reach marketable age in about 8 months.
- The pig can utilize wide variety of feed stuffs (kitchen waste, swill, grains, forages, damaged feeds and garbage) and convert them into valuable animal protein.
- Pigs have a shorter generation interval. A female pig can be bred as early as 8-9 months of age and can farrow atleast twice in an year.
- Pig produce typically 6-12 piglets in each farrowing after 114 days of gestation.
- Pigs are known for their meat yield (about 65-80 dressing percentage as compared to other domestic species where dressing percentage in pigs is about 65).
- High nutritive value of pork is high and is rich in protein, vitamins, minerals and high energy value.
- Pigs manure can be used as fertilizer for agriculture farms and fish ponds.

- Slaughterhouse byproducts from pigs can cater pharmaceutical industries. There is demand worldwide for pig hair and bristle and can be used by brush making and other industries.
- Pig farming requires relatively a small investment on buildings and equipments.
- Pig farming provides quick returns and business can achieve rapid break even.
- There is good demand from domestic as well as export market for pig products such as pork, bacon, ham, sausages, lard etc.
- A wide social acceptability for pig rearing in the NE region and pork as most preferred meat.

How to start pig farming ?

Which breeds of pigs

In India, exotic breeds such as Large White Yorkshire (LWY), Landrace, Hampshire, Duroc, Tamworth, their crossbreds with local pig breeds are available and reared with various advantages such as increased growth rate, litter size and better meat quality. For example, LWY and Hampshire gain weight rapidly, Duroc produces more lean meat and Landrace has superior mothering abilities. Indigenous breeds such as Ghungroo also perform well and are adapted to local climatic conditions. In the experience of ICAR-NRC on Pig, Hampshire X Ghungroo crossbred pigs, Hampshire and LWY perform better under field conditions and are suggested.

Source of pigs

Piglets or breeder pigs can be obtained from local markets, State Government pig farms, 15 units of All India Coordinated Research Projects, 9 units of megaseed project spread across the country, pig farms belonging to State Agricultural Universities, State Veterinary Universities and Central Agricultural University.

Breeding of pigs

Pigs have to be bred with an idea of avoiding inbreeding. One may opt for natural service with an unrelated animal or artificial insemination from a known biosecure source.

Housing management and nutrition of pigs

Feeding alone costs about 70% of pig raising costs. Pig have to fed with balanced nutrition (protein, energy, minerals, vitamins and fiber) according to the age or body weight of the animal. Typical feed for young, grower and adult pigs should contain 22, 15 and 14% of crude protein respectively. The feed should also contain 3500, 2800 and 2400Kcal/kg of digestible energy, respectively. The feed has to be formulated by choosing ingredients in keeping view of these and cost effectiveness. Animals also should have access to clean water.

Pig houses should be well ventilated and spacious enough to prevent overcrowding. Houses can be made of locally available materials to reduce cost. However, the houses invariably should have firm, non slippery floor devoid of cracks. Ideally each grower pig should have an area of 12-20sqft and 20-30sqft of covered and open areas. The presence of wallowing tank and vegetation around pig sty reduces thermal stress on the animals.

Animal health management

All the animals needs to be vaccinated against major diseases (classical swine fever, porcine circo virus, FMD etc) and dewormed regularly as per prescription of a veterinarian. The sheds have to cleaned regularly, wastes disposed appropriately with restrictions on visitors. Enforce strict biosecurity measures.

