



Constraint Analysis of Indigenous Pig Farmers In Tamil Nadu

K. Sangli Vikram Kumar^{1*}, D. Balasubramanyam², K. Sukandhiya³, M. Silambarasan⁴ and V. Kathiravan⁵

¹Assistant Professor (Animal Husbandry), The Indian Agriculture College, Radhapuram – 627 111, Tamil Nadu, India

²Professor, Pig Breeding Unit, Post-Graduate Research Institute in Animal Sciences, Kattupakkam – 603 203, Tamil Nadu, India

³Technical Assistant, College of Poultry Production and Management, Hosur – 635 110, Tamil Nadu, India

⁴Assistant Professor (Agronomy), The Indian Agriculture College, Radhapuram – 627 111, Tamil Nadu, India

⁵Assistant Professor (Agriculture Economics), The Indian Agriculture College, Radhapuram – 627 111, Tamil Nadu, India

(*Corresponding author – svkagb@gmail.com)

ABSTRACT

Pigs have wide adaptability to grow under different agro-climatic conditions. A scientific knowledge base on the farming conditions of indigenous pigs is also not available even though they form an integral part of small holder farming systems and play a significant role in some rural communities for their economic upliftment. Constraints in indigenous pig farming are the one which refers to the difficulties encountered by the indigenous pig farmers in their adoption of recommended indigenous pig farming technologies. The study was carried out to demarcate the constraints in indigenous pig farming practices. Managerial constraints was the major thing perceived followed by socio-economic, institutional, technological and marketing constraints. This study will be helpful to understand various factors hindering indigenous pig production and provide ground for administrators, planners, scientists and field veterinarians for the upliftment of indigenous piggery enterprise in the state.

Keywords: Indigenous pigs, Constraints, Tamil Nadu

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INTRODUCTION

India is one of the mega biodiversity centres of the world and seventh largest country in the world. The pigs contribute around 2.01 per cent of the total livestock population of India. The total population of pig in the country is 10.29 million[2]. The total indigenous pig population in the country is 7.837 million and it is 1.53 lakhs in Tamil Nadu[2]. About 60 per cent of the pig population in Tamil Nadu is indigenous pigs and widely distributed in all parts of Tamil Nadu. Pigs have wide adaptability to grow under different agro-climatic conditions. A scientific knowledge base on the farming conditions of indigenous pigs is also not available even though they form an integral part of small holder farming systems and play a significant role in some rural communities for their economic upliftment. Constraints in rearing indigenous pigs are the one which refers to the difficulties encountered by the indigenous pig farmers in their adoption of recommended indigenous pig farming technologies. The constraint analysis has become a crucial component and it must be taken care for improving the livelihood of indigenous pig farmers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A field survey was conducted to study the constraints in indigenous pig rearing in Tamil Nadu. Survey was conducted in 44 villages of Tamil Nadu and there were 158 respondents. The data was collected using pre-framed questionnaire and recorded from randomly selected people both through personal interviews and observations. The constraints as supposed by the pig farmers were unveiled by interview schedule under different categories such as socio – economic constraints, technological constraints,

managerial constraints, institutional constraints and marketing constraints. Percentage analysis was carried out.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS

High labour cost, non-availability of trained labour, lack of subsidies, un-economical nature of indigenous pig farming, lack of credit facilities, less risk bearing capacity of the farmer were the constraints perceived by the indigenous pig farmers. Issues pertaining to religious taboos (51.61%) were the main constraint of concern. Non – availability of trained labour (21.05%) and high labour cost (20.33%) were other constraints which was similar to the findings of Meganathan *et al.* [7] which may be due to the fact that indigenous pig farming is not a familiar practice carried out in Tamil Nadu. Moreover, a particular community of a people were involved in this indigenous pig farming activities.

TECHNOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS

With regard to technological constraints, there is difficulty in obtaining technical guidance and help from the doctors (57.26%) of that area while these findings were concurrent with the findings of Pandey and Kumar (2000)[8], Ashalatha and Prabhakar [1] and Meganathan *et al.* [7]. Usage of scientific technologies was also an important area of concern. Some farmers raised some suggestion about using of semen for artificial insemination (9.82%). The non – availability of semen for artificial insemination may be due to lack of semen bank for pigs in the state. However semen bank for pig are available in north-eastern states. This insufficiency leads to non – availability of improved germplasm among indigenous population.

MANAGEMENTAL CONSTRAINTS

Difficulties in maintaining the records, difficulties in vaccinating the animal, non – availability of concentrate feeds for breeding indigenous pigs, incidence of diseases, managerial problem due to large size of herd were the managerial constraints faced by the farmers. Nearly most of the respondents had encountered high incidence of diseases (59.64%), managerial problem due to large size of herd (14.57%) and difficulties in vaccinating the indigenous pigs (15.7) which was coherent with the findings of Pandey and Kumar [8] and Kumar *et al.* [5].

INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS

Non-availability of veterinary medicines nearby, non-availability of timely veterinary care, limited awareness of supplies and services offered by the government, limited training programmes, non-availability of insurance programme for indigenous pigs, lack of motivational agencies were encountered as serious constraints. Among various institutional constraints, non-availability of timely veterinary care (43.21%), non-availability of veterinary medicines in nearby place (32.57%) were seen as a major constraint which was comparable to the findings of Mavi *et al.* [6]. This may be due to the fact very limited veterinary services are available in villages and farmers are forced to seek the help of animal husbandry assistants. Apart from these issues, farmers don't have awareness about the diseases which affect pigs. Most of the farmers were not exposed to training facilities and programmes and some were not aware of supplies and sources offered by the government which was in somewhat analogous with the findings of Jain and Pandey [4].

MARKETING CONSTRAINTS

Problems in transportation of live pigs, exploitation of middle man, un-remunerative prices, lack of slaughter facilities, lack of cold storage facilities were the marketing constraints ruled out during the study. Transportation of live pigs (62.35%) were seen as serious constraint. The other constraints like remunerative prices (12.39%), lack of slaughter facilities (8.24%) and exploitation of middle man (14.96%) were perceived by the indigenous pig farmers. Our findings was related to the findings of Meganathan *et al.* [7]. There was no proper market infrastructure for both inputs and outputs which was also conceived by Jain and Pandey [4].

CONCLUSION

Managerial constraints were the serious constraints which was encountered by the farmers followed by socio-economic, institutional, technological and marketing constraints. Among that, incidence of diseases, lack of timely veterinary care was seen as major constraints. Non-availability of good quality of indigenous breeding boar was also seen as a constraint. Exploitation of middle man and difficulties in transportation of indigenous pigs were considered as major issue. Pig rearing has its own significance as it can play a most important role in improving the socio-economic status of a population. It ensures food and nutritional security. There should be an immediate action to carry out strategies for the farming system management, genetic improvement and conservation. So, training for the indigenous pig farmers are essential, improvement in indigenous pig farming may be considered. SWOT analysis (Strengths,

Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of indigenous piggery development programmes may be taken up in the state.

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