

Pig Farming – A Success

Shri Karna Debbarma is a poor tribal farmer of Balaramchoudhury para of West Tripura. Before intervention of the project, he raised his small native pigs in his backyard. It took 3-4 years to grow a pig to a weight of 70-80 kg. In the absence of any markets, he used to slaughter or sell pig within the village in every 3-4 years and earning Rs.7000-9000/- each time. The ICAR Tripura Centre has started working with Karna since early 2011. He has been exposed to scientific pig management and fodder cultivation at ICAR. After being trained, ICAR gave him a good quality Duroc male piglet in 2011 for breeding with his non-descriptive female pig in due course of time. As per precondition, he constructed a pig sty of 8 X 10 ft after technical and financial assistance from ICAR. Karna has started cultivation of various tuber crops in a small area in his backyard to feed his animals. The piglet, ICAR supplied to Karna has performed very well. The Duroc piglet has grown to a size of 90 kg during the period. The non-descriptive female pig was mated with a Duroc boar. The pig delivered seven piglets. Considering the price of the piglet (Rs.2000/-, and note that he received the two piglets at free of cost from the project) and the cost of production, his total expenses came to Rs. 10000/-, with his total earning during this period about Rs. 31500/-, leaving him with a net profit of about Rs. 21,500/- over the one year period. Now he has no problems for selling his piglets. Many of his neighbors have booked his piglets in advance. Whereas, Karna used to have to work for a daily wage quite frequently, he now does so rarely. He is now living a much more comfortable life than ever before. He has bought a new motor cycle, new cell phone and pays the school fees of his school-going children regularly. He recently purchased iron sheets and other construction materials to build a new house for his family. Other pig farmers in the village, like Karna, are now rearing pigs for breeding under the NICRA project, and all of this is transforming the village into a major piglet-producing village. The villagers have considered the project to be a great success because before prior to the project the village had no pig breeder, forcing them to buy piglets from visiting traders or farmers outside their village. With the help of NICRA, Karna has become one of the most progressive pig breeders in Balaramchoudhury para village. He now encourages other farmers to rear and sell pigs for breeding. Karna says that good breeding, feeding, housing and veterinary care, coupled with his improved knowledge on pig management, have helped him to transform his subsistence pig farming into a profitable one.



Dr. S.V. Ngachan, Director, ICAR, Umiam, Meghalaya visiting Pig Farming Unit at the village



Dr. S.V. Ngachan, Director visiting the fishery pond of Mr. Karna Debbarma

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