subjected to 10% potassium hydroxide digestion and centrifuged. The sediment portions should be examined under both low and high power of microscope to find any mite.

TREATMENT AND CONTROL

- The infested pigs may be treated with single dose of ivermectin @ 300µg / kg body weight subcutaneously. Animals should be monitored regularly whether there is any pruritis or skin lesions. In such cases farmers should consult with veterinarians.
- Newly purchased pigs should be examined before releasing into the existing herd.
- Hygienic condition of the farm should be maintained.
- Animals should be given good nutrition.
- Infested animals should be segregated.

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SARCOPTIC MANGE INFESTATION IN PIGS

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'Mange' is a disease caused by 'Mites'. Sarcoptic mange in pigs is caused by the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei* var. *suis* - one of the most important external parasitic infestation of pigs. Pig owners are generally concerned about the internal parasitic infections of their pigs and ignore the external parasitic infestations. Sarcoptic mange in pigs is one of the external parasitic infestation of pigs which has economic importance. The economic losses due to sarcoptic mange infestation are caused by decreased fertility of sows, a lower weight gain and feed conversion ratio.

This parasite (Fig.1) penetrates deep into the skin, produce itching sensation, cause stress and resulted loss of body weight thereby causing loss of production. Secondary bacterial infection may develop in the damaged skin caused by rubbing and scratching due to this mite infestation. Mites live under the skin and are

Fig.1 *Sarcoptes scabiei* var. *suis* under high power of microscope

nourished by the tissue and blood of the pigs and thus responsible for causing intense irritation and rubbing to the point which may cause bleeding.

The infestation spread directly from pig to pig either by close skin contact or contact with recently contaminated surfaces. Skin lesions may be observed in ears, head, neck region, shoulders, leg and back region of pigs. Reddening of the infested area, formation of crusts, hyperkeratosis and fall of hairs from the area are the characteristic lesions. Thick asbestos-like

Fig.2- Thickened and wrinkled skin of mite infested pig

lesions may be observed along the sides of the neck and shoulders region. Wrinkled, thickened, rough and raised skin (Fig.2) can be noticed in infested pigs. The main clinical symptoms are pruritis as a result affected pig showed rubbing of the skin against the wall of the pen.

DIAGNOSIS

Diagnosis of this infestation could easily be done by examination of deep skin scrapings of the suspected lesions. Scraping materials should be