

## MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS RELATED TO PIGGERY FARMING IN KAMRUP DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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### ABSTRACT

An investigation was undertaken to study the motivational factors related to piggery farming in Kamrup district of Assam. The study was conducted in two purposively selected development blocks namely Rampur and Chayani- Barduar development block. Majority of the respondents, 64 per cent belonged to middle age group (28-38 years). 52 per cent of them belonged to 'Schedule Tribe' caste. 27 per cent educational qualifications were up to HSLC. Majority of the respondents, 42 per cent came from families having family size of 6 and above. Most of the respondents i.e. 94 per cent had nuclear type of families. Agriculture was the major occupation of about 79 per cent of the respondents. Only 11 per cent of the respondents had undergone training on pig farming. 48 per cent of the farmers had been rearing pigs for 5 to 7 years. Annual income from pig farming for majority 40 per cent of the respondents were (Rs.21, 000 to Rs. 28,000). As far as total annual income from all sources is concerned, majority 74 per cent were in medium category (Rs.54, 000 to 73,000). Majority of the respondents, 38 per cent reared more than 6 numbers of pigs. Total average annual income from pig farming was Rs. 24,950.00. Huge demand of pork in the markets, scope to start with small scale, to earn additional income, less capital investment, multiple rearing per year, to become self-reliant and less reliance on outside labour were some of the factors that motivated the respondents to take up pig farming.

**Key words:** Motivational factors, Piggery farmers.

Indian economy is mainly based on agriculture. Apart from agriculture, livestock rearing also plays an important role in generating supplementary income. The 2003 livestock census reported that the pig population of Kamrup district was 93,496. The pig population of the state has shown an increasing trend in the recent years. According to BAHS, 2012, the highest pig population was found in Assam (around 20 lakhs)

followed by Uttar Pradesh (13.5 lakhs of pigs), and West Bengal (8.15 lakhs) in 2007 as compared to 22.84 lakhs in Uttarpradesh, followed by 15.43 lakhs in Assam and 13 lakhs in West Bengal in the year 2003. The Kamrup district of Assam is well exposed to various infrastructure and technical facilities and there is a good concentration of pig farmers in this area who have tremendous contribution to the piggery enterprise. Due to growing awareness and realization about the importance of quality meat in human nutrition, the piggery sector can become the main point of

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attention from all concerned. With input supplies becoming more easily available, combined with the fact that return on investment is quick and remunerative, piggery farming is gaining popularity among many in Kamrup district as a means of earning their livelihood. Keeping the above facts in view, the present study was undertaken to identify the factors responsible for development of piggery enterprise among the farmers.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Locale of the study

The present study was conducted in two purposively selected development blocks of Kamrup district near Guwahati, the capital city and business hub of entire North Eastern region of India. The blocks were Rampur and Chayani-Barduar developmental block situated 30 K.M. away towards west and 27 K.M. south west of Guwahati city respectively.

### Sampling procedure:

From each selected blocks 5 villages were selected randomly i.e. a total of 10 villages were selected for the study. From each selected villages, ten pig farmers were selected randomly to make a sample size of 100 respondents for the study. Data were collected personally with the help of an structured interview schedule which was developed incorporating the specific questions for the study. Data collected were tabulated and analyzed for meaningful conclusion.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In perusal of Table 1, it was found that majority of the respondents (64.00%) belonged to middle age group. The reasons for high numbers of respondents (64%) in middle age group may be that the income from piggery adds significantly to the family income unlike agriculture. The income from piggery was an assured source unlike agriculture, which was uncertain one. Other literature reports<sup>1, 2, 6 & 7</sup> also supported the findings. 52.00 per cent of the respondents belonged to ST

category. The reasons for majority of the respondents belonging to S.T. category is that pig farming has been mainly practiced by tribal population of the region as a subsidiary source of income generation. Similar views have been reported in other findings<sup>6</sup>. Only 11 per cent of the respondents were graduate. The piggery farmers were having large 42.00 per cent and medium 41.00 per cent family size. 40.00 per cent of the respondents had social participation. Large majority (79.00%) of the respondents primary occupation was agriculture. The majority of farmers practicing agriculture alone may be due to the continuation of their ancestral tradition and also due to limited scope of employment in the non-agricultural sector. Similar findings were also reported by many workers<sup>4, 5 & 6</sup>. Majority (48.00%) of the farmers have been rearing pigs for 4-5years. The mean score of the farmers of Chayani-Barduar in relation to the number of years in pig rearing was found to be higher than that of the farmers of Rampur development block. ( $t=9.504^{**}$ ,  $P<0.01$ ). The possible reason might be due to the fact that the respondents in Chayani-Barduar block were predominately tribal farmers and were rearing pig traditionally while the population of Rampur block were primarily non-tribal where the idea of pig farming was recently entered. 40.00 per cent of the respondents had medium level of income from pig farming. The mean score with respect to annual income from pig farming was higher in Rampur block in comparison to Chayani-Barduar block ( $t=3.982^{**}$ ,  $P<0.01$ ). The possible explanation might be that although the respondents of Rampur block were lacking in numbers of years in pig farming, they were rearing scientifically and commercially due to the intervention given by state animal husbandry and extension agencies regarding training, credit linkages with banks. 74.00 per cent of the farmers had medium level of annual income from all sources. Majority (47.00%) of the farmers had large herd size.

Factors related to piggery farming

Table 1 Socio-personal and economic characteristics of the farmers (N=100)

Profile Characteristics	Rampur Block		Chayani-Barduar Block		Pooled		Mean	SD	t' value			
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage						
<b>Age</b>												
Young(27 ≤)	5	10.00	7	14.00	15	15.00	34.01	±5.69	0.824 <sup>NS</sup>			
Middle(28-38)	38	76.00	32	64.00	64	64.00						
Old(39 ≥)	7	14.00	11	22.00	21	21.00						
<b>Caste</b>												
General	15	30.00	2	4.00	17	17.00	5.48	±1.13	0.176 <sup>NS</sup>			
OBC	12	24.00	0	0.00	12	12.00						
SC	14	28.00	5	10.00	19	19.00						
ST	9	18.00	43	86.00	52	52.00						
<b>Education</b>												
Illiterate	0	0.00	2	4.00	2	2.00	6.61	±1.81	9.504 <sup>**</sup>			
Primary school	2	4.00	12	24.00	14	14.00						
Middle school	11	22.00	13	26.00	24	24.00						
HSLC	16	32.00	11	22.00	27	27.00						
HSSLC	16	32.00	6	12.00	22	22.00						
Graduate	5	10.00	6	12.00	11	11.00						
Above graduate	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00						
<b>Family size</b>												
Small(4 ≤)	7	14.00	10	20.00	17	17.00				24.95	±4.17	3.982 <sup>**</sup>
Medium(5)	20	40.00	21	42.00	41	41.00						
Large(6 ≥)	23	46.00	19	38.00	42	42.00						
<b>Social participation</b>												
Yes	28	56.00	12	24.00	40	40.00	63.90	±10.50	1.435 <sup>NS</sup>			
No	22	44.00	38	76.00	60	60.00						
<b>Occupation</b>												
Service	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5.47	±1.01	2.095 <sup>NS</sup>			
Business/Trade & Commerce	16	32.00	5	10.00	21	21.00						
Agriculture	34	68.00	45	90.00	79	79.00						
<b>Daily Wage Earnings</b>												
Any others	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00						
<b>No. of years in pig farming</b>												
Short(3 ≤)	6	12.00	7	14.00	13	13.00						
Medium(4-5)	24	48.00	8	16.00	48	48.00						
Long(6 ≥)	20	40.00	35	70.00	39	39.00						
<b>Annual income from pig farming</b>												
Low(22 ≤)	8	16.00	24	48.00	32	32.00						
Medium(23-29)	22	44.00	18	36.00	40	40.00						
High(30 ≥)	20	40.00	8	16.00	28	28.00						
<b>Total annual income from all sources</b>												
Low(53 ≤)	5	10.00	6	12.00	11	11.00						
Medium(54-75)	34	68.00	40	80.00	74	74.00						
High(76 ≥)	11	22.00	4	8.00	15	15.00						
<b>Number of pigs reared</b>												
Small(4 ≤)	8	16.00	7	14.00	15	15.00						
Medium(5)	21	42.00	17	34.00	38	38.00						
Large(6 ≥)	21	42.00	26	52.00	47	47.00						

Data in table 2 revealed that the contribution from pig farming in Rampur block was Rs 26,000 which was found to be 40.51 per cent of the total annual earning from all sources of Rs. 65,400. Similarly in Chayani-Barduar Rs 23,400 (37.50 per cent) earning came from piggery enterprise. The results are in agreement with reported literature<sup>6 & 7</sup>.

**Table 2 Contribution of annual income (Average) from pig farming to total annual household income (N=100)**

Particulars	Rampur Block	Chayani-Barduar Block	Pooled
Total average annual income from pig farming (thousand Rs.)	26,500.00	23,400.00	24,950.00
Total average annual income from all sources (thousand Rs.)	65,400.00	62,400.00	63,900.00
Percent contribution of pig farming to total annual income from all sources (in percentage)	40.51	37.50	39.04

In perusal of Table 3 multiple responses were obtained from the farmers regarding the factors which motivated them to take up piggery farming and then ranking was done accordingly to the frequency of responses obtained from the farmers by giving 1<sup>st</sup> rank to the most frequent response and so on. Majority (70%) of the respondents stated 'huge demand for pork in the market' to be the motivating factor to take up pig farming and was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in terms of motivational factors. It might be due to the fact that pork meat is one of the most preferred meat of the people in this region and day by day the demand is increasing and as such the farmers are getting good returns from their piggery enterprise. A total of 60 per cent of the respondents mentioned 'scope to start with small scale' (ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>) was another important factor to take up pig farming. This might be due to the fact that rearing of pigs

under traditional backyard system requires very less investment and the returns can be obtained in a shorter duration as compared with other livestock enterprise. Another 55 per cent of the respondents stated that the motive to take up pig farming was 'to earn an additional income' and was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>. The percentage of respondents that stated 'less capital investment' as the motivating factor was 45 per cent (ranked 4<sup>th</sup>). 'Multiple rearing per year' (ranked 5<sup>th</sup>) was stated by 30 per cent of the respondents as the motivating factor. Equal percentage of the respondents (20% each) stated the reasons for taking up pig farming as 'to be self-reliant' and 'less reliance on outside. This might be due to the fact that in the study area most of the farmers did not hired any kind of labour for managing their piggery unit and they themselves performed the daily routine operations like feeding, watering etc.

**Table 3 Motivational factors for taking up piggery farming**

Particulars	Frequency (%)	Rank
High demand for pork in the market	70	I
Scope to start with small scale	60	II
To earn additional income	55	III
Less capital investment	45	IV
Multiple rearing per year	30	V
To be self-reliant	20	VI
Less reliance in outside labour	20	

## CONCLUSION

The demand for pork meat has been increasing day by day in Assam as well as the adjoining neighbouring states of the North Eastern region. Although, agriculture is the prime source for majority of the rural population, dependence on livestock as a subsidiary source of income was significant. Pigs have been an integral component of farming system and support a large rural population

of Assam. The farmers of Assam have the potential to contribute greatly in the development of piggery enterprise. So the policy makers should develop appropriate strategies to boost the piggery farmers by providing necessary inputs in terms of service and technology which might improve the agrarian economy as the demand of pork has been ever increasing in the entire region.

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