

Popularization of Artificial Insemination in Pigs in the State of Assam through National Livestock Mission and Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project

Pig farming plays a pivotal role in uplifting the socio-economic status of rural masses especially the tribal farmers of North Eastern States for whom pig rearing is a way of living and livelihood. ICAR-NRC on Pig has been popularizing Artificial Insemination (AI) in pigs as a means of rapid spread of superior germplasm to the needy pig farmers of the country particularly in NER States. In order to percolate the technology even into the rural areas of the state of Assam the institute has organized two capacity building programmes for all pig farm managers and the *Pig Bandhus* (local service providers) of the State. These residential training programmes were organized during 10-12th June, 2019 at the Institute.

A total of 12 Pig farm managers and 14 *Pig Bondhus* from different districts of Assam participated in these trainings. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Govt. of Assam is taking keen interest in upbringing the un-organized piggery sector in the state to an organized level through different activities under National Livestock Mission (NLM) and Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). The institute is also actively associated with the Govt. of Assam through these programmes as knowledge partner. Under these programmes, hands on training were imparted on scientific pig production with special emphasis on AI in pigs. Trainees were exposed to different aspects of AI such as selection of breeding boar, training of boar for semen collection, semen collection, evaluation of semen and processing of semen for AI. They were also trained on performing AI using liquid boar semen. Apart from AI, the trainees were also exposed to general pig farm management practices, biosecurity measures and record keeping which are required for the pig breeding farms. Officials from NLM and APART were also present in these programmes and apprised the trainees about the activities undertaken by the respective units in popularizing AI in pigs in the State. Dr. S. Rajkhowa, Director (Acting), ICAR-NRC on Pig has also emphasized on the importance of A.I. in pigs for rapid dissemination of superior germplasm for quick expansion of commercial piggery in the State.

The Institute is also supporting the State of Assam in developing boar semen processing laboratories in different districts for further propagation of artificial insemination in pigs and thereby to ensure substantial improvement in the pig germplasm in the region. These trainings will definitely be instrumental for spreading the AI technology in the field across the state.





(Source: ICAR-NRC on Pig, Rani, Guwahati)

