

“Rani” and “Asha” - two crossbred pig variety released by ICAR-NRC on Pig

Guwahati, 15th October-

Two new and improved crossbred varieties of pigs namely “Rani” and “Asha” was released by Dr. H. Rahman, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), ICAR at ICAR-NRC on Pig, Rani, Guwahati today.

Delivering his inaugural speech, the Director of the Institute, Dr. D.K. Sarma explained the demand-supply gap of pork in the northeastern region in specific and country as a whole. He explained the need of good pig germplasm for the farmers.

“Rani”, the crossbred pig variety has been developed by ICAR-NCR on Pig by crossing Hampshire (exotic breed) with Ghungroo (indigenous breed) to have 50% inheritance of both the breeds. The breed characters of “Rani” crossbred has been stabilized for consistent crossbreeding of six generation. The breed can gain almost 75 kg body weight at slaughter age of 8 months with 1.98 cm of back fat thickness. “Rani” cross have widely been validated in farmers’ field. Duroc, another exotic germplasm, was crossed with “Rani” to develop “Asha” cross to have 25% Ghungroo, 25% Hampshire and 50% Duroc inheritance. “Asha” can produce 80 kg lean pork at slaughter age of 8 months with 1.75 cm back fat thickness. Dr. Santanu Banik, Principal Scientist and Principal Investigator of the project explained that “Rani” can be propagated among the breeder farmers and “Asha” for finisher producers.

Dr. R.S. Gandhi, Assistant Director General (Animal Production and Breeding), ICAR, New Delhi explained the increasing interest of farmers and entrepreneurs about piggery which requires good breeding animals.

In his presidential remarks, Dr. H. Rahman, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), ICAR, New Delhi appreciated the effort of the Institute for development of faster-growing crossbred pigs and expected that the rural farmers would be benefitted through rearing of improved pig germplasm. He later distributed “Rani” and “Asha” piglets to pig farmers of adopted village and released few publications of the Institute.

Senior officials from ICAR Headquarters, Animal Husbandry Departments of state Government, related ICAR Institutes, concerned Universities and AICRP on Pig and Mega Seed Project on Pig along with progressive farmers participated in the event. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. M.K. Tamuli, Principal Scientist of the institute.



“Rani” cross



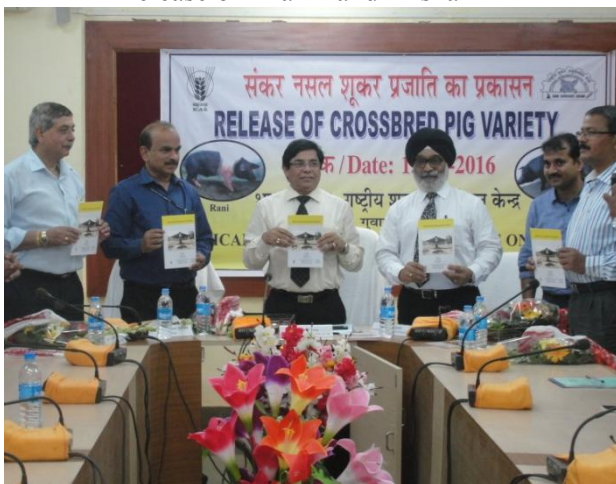
“Asha” Cross



Release of “Rani” and “Asha”



DDG (AS) addressing the gathering



Release of publications



Distribution of developed pig variety to the farmers