

Feeding Practices of Pig Farmers in Perambalur and Ariyalur Districts of Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

The study was taken up to assess the various feeding practices followed by 30 pig farmers in Perambalur and Ariyalur district of Tamil Nadu. It was found that about 57 per cent of farmers used hotel and kitchen wastes and vegetable waste to the pigs reared for fattening purpose, while 30 per cent of the farmers used concentrate feed for breeding pigs with locally available grains. Only 3 per cent of farmers used commercially available swine mash for feeding the animals. Farmers fed pigs with 5-6 kg of hotel waste and kitchen waste per day and also 4 to 5 kg of vegetable waste at evening time. About 10 per cent of the farmers used mixed feeding i.e. concentrate feed, hotel waste and kitchen waste or vegetable waste. It was concluded that most of farmers were not aware of scientific rearing and specific feeding practices, this leads to piglet mortality, low production performance and disease occurrence.

Keywords: Pig farmers, Feeding practice, Vegetable and Hotel wastes.

In India, pigs are reared by socio-economically weaker section of people. Now a days, the peoples showing interest in pig farming and the people are showing their interest in rearing of white pigs than desi pig due to higher litter size, growth rate, feed conversion ratio, dressing percentage, marketing rate etc. (Majunder *et al.*, 2020). Even though there are so many exotic breeds available, Large White Yorkshire (LWY) is the most suitable one in Tamil Nadu (Paramasivam *et al.*, 2021). Tochwang *et al.*, (2013) reported high feed cost is one of the major constraints in pig farming in Mizoram. Rearing of pig without following the scientific methods of rearing and specific feeding

practices which led to piglet mortality, low production, disease occurrence and finally end with loss (Sharma *et al.*, 2015). Therefore the study was conducted to find the suitability of various feeding practices adopted by small holding pig farmers in Tamil Nadu.

Materials and Methods

The VUTRC (Veterinary University Training and Research Centre) of Perambalur conducted the one day training for the pig farmers of Perambalur and Ariyalur districts of Tamil Nadu during the year 2019, a total number of 30 trainees participated. For the purpose of data collection, an interview schedule was prepared which included all the items related to the specific objectives of the study. Necessary precautions were taken to ensure that the questions in the schedule were unambiguous, flawless, clear, concise and comprehensive. The schedule was prepared in English and then translated into Tamil for easy interpretation of data.

Results and Discussion

Different feeding practices in pig rearing

The different feeding practices and various feed ingredients used by pig farmers were based on availability of resources. Majority of farmers reared pigs for fattening purpose. According to Ranjan *et al.*, (2003) weaning weight gain was higher in concentrate feed, post weaning weight gain was higher in hotel and rice fermented waste as well as CP content was higher in hotel waste (25.01-26.23%) than concentrate (18.60%) feed. Supplementation of ration in the form of swill feed along with scavenging widely practiced in urban (62.50%) and rural 54.17% (Majunder *et al.*, 2020). Various feeding practices adopted by farmers in Tamil Nadu were given in (Table I).

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Table. Different feeding practices followed by pig farmers

S. No.	Feeding practices	Per cent adoption	Purpose
1.	Hotel waste kitchen waste and Vegetable waste	57	Fattening pigs
2.	Concentrate feed with local grains	30	Breeding pigs
3.	Commercial swine mash	3	Breeding pigs
4.	Mixed feeding	10	Both breeding and fattening pigs

Hotel waste and Vegetable waste

Fifty seven per cent farmers feed their fattening animals with hotel and kitchen wastes and Vegetable waste. Similar results were documented by Kumar *et al* (2004) in addition to this found that pigs reared under hotel and kitchen wastes and Vegetable waste had higher body weights. Procurement of swill feed is variable among farmers. In Urban it was carried out by direct procuring (91.67%) and by involvement of middlemen (8.33%) but in rural sector 100 per cent respondents procure directly (Majunder *et al*, 2020). According to Haldar *et al.*, (2017) and Shyam *et al.*, (2016) use of locally available weeds and traditional feeding system might be utilized in improved way.

Concentrate feed with local grains:

Thirty per cent farmers feed their breeding stocks with locally available feed which includes grains, cereals, meat, fish meal etc., and there was no separate feed for piglets, weaner and for adults. Only three per cent farmers used commercially available swine mash for breeding purpose. Higher feed cost of commercial swine mash was a major constraint in pig farming. It was revealed that 10 per cent farmers fed concentrate feed for breeding and swill feed for fattening animals. This was one of the ways to reduce feeding cost. However, strict biosecurity measures need to be followed to avoid disease transmission. Contrary to Talukdar *et al.*, (2019) and Shyam *et al* (2016), majority of farmers feed their pigs once daily either in the morning or in evening but no feed additives and supplements were provided.

Conclusion

The study revealed that most of the farmers were not aware of scientific rearing and specific

feeding practices which led to piglet mortality, low production and disease occurrence. Hotel waste, kitchen waste and vegetable waste feeding practices were adopted only for fattening purpose of pig rearing and other feeding practices like concentrate, grains, mash were adopted in breeding farms. At the same time biosecurity measures might be followed for prevention of diseases. Hence suitable training programs with special emphasis on feeding practices of breeding and fattening pigs need to be conducted for the pig farmers to create awareness about importance of feeding, feed ingredients and different feeding practices.

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