

Commercial Pig Farming: A Profitable Business

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Abstract

Pig farming is one of the worthwhile livestock businesses and most of the people find fruitful results in commercial pig raising business. Commercial pig farming is advantageous because pigs are prolific breeders and litter size is 10–14. In our country most of the pig farmers are raising low productive small-sized pigs. As a result they are not getting desired production. For commercial pig farming, highly productive pig breeds should be selected.

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INTRODUCTION

Commercial pig farming in India for meat production is one of the best and profitable businesses for the Indians. However, pig farming had a bad picture in the social order since only socially backward down-trodden class of India used to raise pigs. At present the scenario has changed tremendously and commercial hog farming in India is no more confined to lower class societies. Nowadays people are conscious about the economic value of pigs like other domestic stock animals. And higher caste, educated people have also started commercial pig farming business in a modern and scientific manner. Performance of different breed of pigs under low input production system has been reported earlier [1, 2].

ADVANTAGES OF PIG REARING

- Pigs transform inedible feeds, forages, certain grain byproducts obtained from mills, meat byproducts, damaged feeds and food waste into valuable nutritious meat. Most of these feeds are either not edible or not really palatable to human beings [3].
- Pig grows fast and is a prolific breeder, farrowing 10–12 piglets at a time. It is well known for its capability of raising two litters per year under optimal management conditions.
- The carcass yield is quite high, i.e., 60–80% of live body weight.

- With a small investment in construction and equipment, proper eating and sound disease control programme, the farmer can profitably use his time and toil in this subsidiary occupation.
- The ratio of total consumable meat and total body weight is higher in pigs. We can get around 60–80% consumable meat from a live pig.



- Pig meat (Pork) is higher in fat and energy and lower in water. It is also one of the most nourishing and tasty meat.

- Pig fat also has an enormous demand in poultry feed, paints, soap and chemical industries and this demand is continuously increasing.
- The faeces of pigs are used as a manure to maintain soil fertility.

SUITABLE FOR?

- Small and landless farmers.
- Part-time earning for educated youth having agriculture as occupation.
- Uneducated youth.
- Farm women.

HOW TO START PIG FARMING IN INDIA

- There are some basic steps for establishing successful pig farming. The possible steps are given as follows:

Selection of Suitable Land

Choosing a suitable land or place is very important and foremost step in starting pig farming. While selecting land for pig farming, try to ascertain accessibility of all types of essential facilities for the pigs. Following points has to be kept in mind while selecting or buying the land:

- Ensure availability of sufficient amount of clean and refreshing water in your selected field;
- Select a calm and noise-free area;
- Attempt to select or purchase land in rural region as land and labour can be easily set up in rural areas within very cheap rate;
- Consider the facility of making a browsing place for your pigs;
- A suitable market near your farm area will be very helpful. You will be able to trade your wares and buy necessary commodities, vaccines and medicines;
- A good shipping system with the market will be very efficient;
- The status of veterinary services in your chosen area has to be considered while selecting land.

Selection of Productive Breeds of Pig

Some of the highly meat producing breeds are listed below. These are available in India and very appropriate for commercial pig farming in our country.

- **Large White Yorkshire**

Large White Yorkshire is the most extensively used exotic breed in India. Their body is solid white with occasional dark-pigmented spots, erect ears, snout of medium lengths and dished face. It is fertile and excellent breed for the intent of cross breed. Mature weight of boar and sow are 300–400 kg and 230–320 kg, respectively.



- **Landrace**

Landrace is another high meat productive pig breed. They have long-sized body with long snout and large drooping ears. Their body colour is white with black skin spot. They are likewise excellent for crossbreeding as Large White Yorkshire. An adult boar weights around 270–360 kg and an adult sow weights around 200–320 kg. It is desirable for commercial pig farming in India.



- **Middle White Yorkshire**

This pig breed is used in some regions of India. Grows very rapidly and gives good dressing percentages. An adult boar weights 250–340 kg and an adult sow 180–270 kg.



- **Other Breeds**

According to the weather of India, some other breeds are suitable for farming. Hampshire, HS X1, Duroc, Indigenous, Ghungroo etc. are suitable for pig farming in India (Table 1).

Housing

For a successful pig farming business, a better housing and all necessary equipment are very important. Housing not only provides protection but also hold them safe from inclement weather, leeches and various cases of pig diseases. It has to be made sure that your ventilation system is working properly. Make proper facility for keeping the boar, farrowing, weaner and dry sow separated from each other (Table 1). The space requirement for each type of pigs is listed in Table 2.

Table 1: Requirement of Floor Space and Water to Different Classes of Pig.

Class of animals	Covered floor area / animal (m ²)	Open yard area / animal (m ²)	Water requirement (l)
Boar	6.25–7.5	8.8–12.0	40–50
Farrowing	7.5–9.0	8.8–12.0	20–25
Weaner	0.96–1.8	8.8–12.0	3–5
Dry sow	1.8–2.7	1.4–1.8	4–5

Table 2: Requirement of Floor Space on the Basis of Body Weight of Pigs.

Body weight of pigs	Daily required food (kg) per pig
25	2.0
50	3.2
100	5.3
150	6.8
200	7.5
250	8.3

Feeds and Feeding

Feeding is the most imperative part of commercial pig farming in India. Development,

production and animal health depend on feeding high quality and nutritious feed [3]. Selection of most economical ingredients for preparing feed is of utmost importance. The basic components of pig feed are oat, grains, corn, wheat, rice, sorghum and other millets. Protein supplements such as oil cakes, fish meal and meat meal should be added. Minerals, vitamins as well as antibiotic supplements @11 mg per kg should be supplemented. It would be more beneficial to let the pigs graze in the forage and feed fresh green legumes. The best direction to feed the pigs on a farm is to go on and feed them one by one. That means keeping the different aged pigs separately and feeding them according to their age and weight. Along with feeding nutritious food, they should be served constantly with a sufficient amount of clean and refreshing water. Food demand varies according to the age and body weight of pigs. Table 3 shows the required daily feeds according to the body weight of different aged pigs.

Breeding

Pigs' breeding process is very gentle and uncomplicated. Generally, both male and female pigs become suitable for breeding within their eight months of age. Within this time they gain about 100–120 kg. The heat period of female pig lengths for about 2–3 days. First day during the heat period of gilts is the best time to breed and second day is best for sow. A sow become suitable for breeding again after 2–10 days of weaning. The gestation period of pigs is not more than 115 days. A sow can give birth of piglets twice a year and about 8–12 piglets each time.

Table 3: Ration Formulation to Different Classes of Pig.

Ingredients	Creep ration (14-56 d)	Grower ration (up to 40 kg)	Finisher ration (40-90 kg)	Pregnant/ Lactating sows
Maize or sorghum, broken rice/wheat and barley	65	50	50	50
Oil cakes (groundnut, soybean, sesame, linseed)	14	18	20	20
Molasses	5	5	5	5
Wheat bran/rice bran	10	1.5	25	18
Meat meal/ fish meal/ skim milk powder dairy wastes	5	5	3	5
Mineral mix.	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
Salt	-	0.5	0.5	0.5

Wallows

As number of sweat glands is very less in pig, a wallow should be kept for mature breeding animals and fattening animals need a wallow during summer months especially at tropical regions. The size of the wallow will depend upon the number and size of the animals.

Care of Piglets on Anaemia

Anaemia is a common nutritional disease in piglets. This condition can be prevented and cured by supplying iron either orally or by injection. Oral administration consists of spraying or swabbing the sow's udder with a saturated solution of ferrous sulphate (0.5 kg of ferrous sulphate in 10 l of hot water). This solution must be applied daily from birth until the piglets start eating creep feed. Intramuscular injection of iron—dextran compounds is the more efficient method of preventing anaemia.

Care and Management

Management is very important for any kind of farming system and attempts to hold them free from all types of health hazard and diseases. All male piglets are not necessary for breeding purpose. Some of them can be kept and rest can be castrated when they are 3–4 weeks old. Feeding of nutritious feed and taking special care of the sow during lactation period should be done. Likewise very deliberate approach is required around the breeding boar, piglets and the pregnant sows. The piglets should be vaccinated to prevent swine fever at their 2–4 weeks of age. Breeding pigs should be tested for brucellosis and leptospirosis. Pig farm should be in calm and quiet place and visitors should never be allowed inside the farm.

Marketing

Marketing is the easiest process of commercial

pig farming in India. Pig meat has a good domestic demand. Products can be sold in the local market or nearest big markets or can also target the global market.

CONCLUSIONS

Commercial pig farming in India is a real profitable line of work. The social scenario of pig farming business has shifted greatly. Nowadays, everyone is conscious about the economic importance of pig farming business in India.

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