

Director, ICAR-NRC on Pig and Project Coordinator, AICRP on Pig Reviews the Activities of AICRP on Pig Unit at ERS, Kolkata

Dr. V. K. Gupta, Director, ICAR-NRC on Pig & Project Coordinator AICRP on Pig visited ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata to review the activities and achievements of the AICRP on Pig unit located at Kalyani Farm Complex of the regional centre on 06.09.2023. He was accompanied by Dr N. H. Mohan, PS and In-charge, AICRP on Pig, ICAR-NRC on Pig, Guwahati, Assam. Addressing the beneficiaries, Dr Gupta highlighted the importance of pig for food and economic security in the country, especially among weaker sections of the society. He emphasized the need of technological support for pig production and health management through training, which is required for value addition and skill development of various stakeholders engaged in pig farming.



Earlier, Dr Syamal Naskar, P.I., AICRP on Pig unit of the regional centre presented a brief profile and gave an overview of the progress made in the project since its inception. Dr Naskar highlighted the achievements of the unit, notably the Ghungroo pig germplasm conservation programme and its distribution made during the period for societal development. He also briefly described the infrastructure facilities developed and future plans of the centre. The Project Coordinator while expressing satisfaction with the progress and achievements of the unit suggested to focus on the revised programme and work within the approved objectives and technical programme / targets given.



During the interaction meeting, the progressive pig farmers expressed their concern towards supply chain issues, disease spread, market price fluctuation, and high feed price as deterring factors for profitable pig farming. While developing a roadmap for future programmes, it was decided to train the beneficiaries on artificial insemination technology for improved pig farming and develop master trainers so as to make pig farming business more lucrative and popular among rural unemployed youths and small holder farmers.



Earlier, during his welcome address, Dr Arnab Sen, HoRC, ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata emphasized the need of linkage of farmers engaged in pig farming to enhance their profit and income. He also urged the beneficiaries to avail the training and advisory services of ERS, Kolkata on pig husbandry practices for enhancing pig production in the region. In his concluding remarks, Dr Gupta emphasized that the centre should work towards supporting pig farmers and disseminate technologies for economic upliftment, livelihood security and entrepreneurship development.

The entire programme was coordinated by Dr Sadhan Bag, Principal Scientist and Co-PI, AICRP on Pig Project.