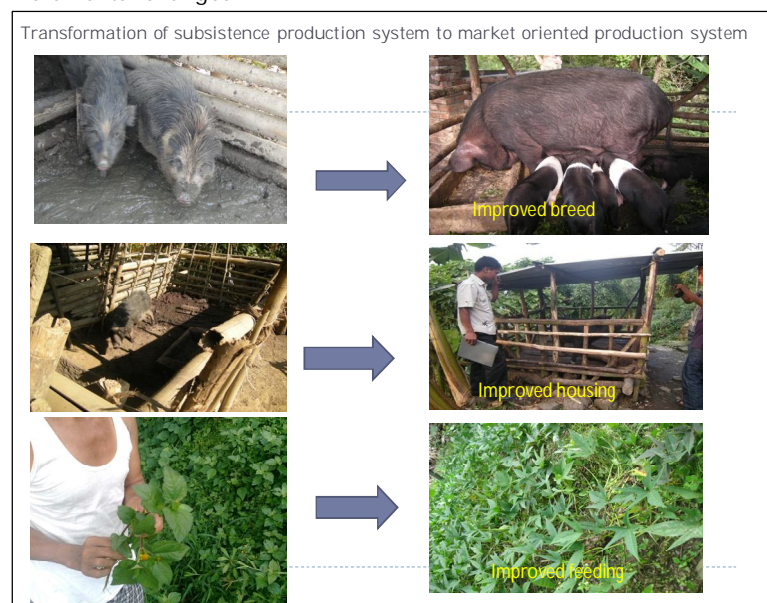


With 'Integrated Community-based Services', Mon Farmers Improved Livelihood Options

Before intervention the production was 30 kg per annum (4-8 piglets per farrowing). After technological interventions of NAIP-III the yield has gone up by 70 kg per annum (8-11 piglets per farrowing) in 4-5 years' time. The total income has increased from Rs. 4000 to Rs. 20,000 per year in Mon district and a 6 per cent increment in employment generation.

Pigs are the most common and preferred livestock species (80 %) in Mon district of Nagaland. The production system mainly follows indigenous ways and the feedings are mainly based on jungle forages and kitchen waste here. Poor housing systems riddled with unhygienicities have long been grappling with lack of veterinary services have thrashed hopes of the native pig rearers to boost farm incomes. But high market demand for pork may offer good scope to improve the systems if local communities highlight their eagerness to improve the pig production and marketing leading to improve their livelihoods. An integrated community based approach is needed to bring incremental changes.



Scenario

For 3-4 months a year, they face severe food shortages and depend upon non-conventional food resources like tapioca, colocasia etc. other than this, indigenous pigs take about 3-4 years to achieve market weight (70-80 kg) is much higher than the cross bred taking only about 8-10 months to gain the same body weight. After selling the indigenous breed in local market, it will fetch only Rs. 8000-10000 in three years. However the same amount may be earned yearly by adopting modern pig rearing methods. One sow gives at least 1 farrowing per year, and if 10 -piglets are produced per farrowing one can earn Rs.20,000 by selling 10 piglets at Rs 2000 each piglet.

Production and Marketing

Through participatory discussions with the community members pig production and marketing systems were assessed to see whether pork marketing

could meet with villagers' aspirations here. The best local practices identified were suitably molded into new indigenous ways to suit individual's hopes and needs. Several rounds of dialogues with, followed by sensitisation sessions made modern pig rearing a household technology. Further pastor, chairman- village council, students' body made clear the community members about the capacity building programmes and some critical farm inputs- piglets, planting materials of food-feed crops and feeding, management, shed construction units in the realm.

The 'Hands-on-Gift Scheme' introduced to the SHG members meant to identify the best pig producers among them. SHG (Self Help Group) members were also asked to select the down line beneficiaries under each first line beneficiaries in advance in order to build the system of peer pressure. All first line beneficiaries were asked to cultivate food-feed crops like sweet potato, at Rs.2000 piglet. Tapioca, colocasia and maize as mixed crop in the backyard.

ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) collected and provided improved varieties of planting materials from several national and international organizations. Pig producers were provided with advice and guidance on the cultivation of the crops. Market linkages were created by organizing a Buyers-Sellers meet in the villages where all the relevant stakeholders like pig retailers, piglet traders, feed sellers, medicine sellers, veterinary doctors attended.

Production/Yield

Before intervention the production was 30 kg per annum (4-8 piglets per farrowing). Now the yield is 70 kg/ annum (8-11 piglets per farrowing). The total income has increased five times: from Rs. 4000 to Rs. 20,000 per year here. There is 6 per cent increment in employment generation.

Sustainability

Involvement of community members into decision-making behavior by identifying beneficiaries- which are affordable and accessible to the community to ensure market demand and to stimulate public interests- will be developed in future. Ownership of the beneficiaries by motivating them to invest in housing, feeding and healthcare management has to be strengthened. Built peer pressure within the community by introducing 'Hands in Gift scheme' assisting only a section of the SHG members considered as first line beneficiary. Benefit to second line beneficiary depends on the performance of the first line beneficiary.

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