

Training Programme on Scientific Pig Rearing Practices Held at ICAR-KVK Sippighat



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ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Port Blair, in collaboration with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), South Andaman, organised a three-day training programme on scientific pig rearing practices at ICAR-KVK, Sippighat, from August 18 to 20, 2026.

The training, themed **"Information and Awareness on Scientific Pig Rearing Practices,"** was attended by 25 participants and focused on improving farmers' knowledge of scientific pig production, breeding, feeding, financial support and integrated livestock farming practices suitable for the islands.

Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Principal Scientist and Head, KVK, South Andaman, presided over the inaugural session and highlighted ways and means of making pig rearing a profitable enterprise. Dr. Zachariah George, Subject Matter Specialist, conducted the ice-breaking and sensitisation session and outlined the prevailing challenges faced by the piggery sector in the islands, along with possible solutions.

Dr. P.A. Bala, Principal Scientist and Principal Investigator, AICRP on Pig, delivered a session on feeding systems, feeding schedules and the importance of balanced nutrition for pigs.

The second day covered reproductive management, breeding and genetic selection. Dr. P. Perumal, Senior Scientist, explained reproductive management of swine for profitable pig farming, while Dr. R.R. Alyethodi, Senior Scientist, discussed breeding and genetic selection strategies and the benefits of superior germplasm.

Mr. Brigson, Financial Adviser, State Bank of India, briefed the participants on various financial and welfare schemes available to farmers, including the Kisan Credit Card. Mr. Mohit, Subject Matter Specialist, explained the integration of piggery into an Integrated Farming System (IFS) model and discussed its components and implementation strategies in the islands.

As part of the practical component, participants visited the piggery unit of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (DAHVS) at Dollygunj. Dr. Subhash Palve, SVO and In-charge of the pig unit, along with his team, explained the functioning of the unit and demonstrated practices related to fodder management, Azolla cultivation, fodder chaffing and hydroponic systems.

At the ICAR-CIARI piggery unit, Dr. Bala explained the daily management practices followed at the facility. Mr. Kartick, Mr. Abhishek Desai and Mr. Vinod demonstrated the iron therapy module for piglets and explained piglet selection, docking and needle-tooth removal practices.

The training concluded with an emphasis on making greater use of locally available resources and addressing feed scarcity in the islands to improve profitability in livestock farming. Dr. Y. Ramakrishna highlighted the importance of resource-efficient approaches for strengthening piggery and livestock-based livelihoods in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.