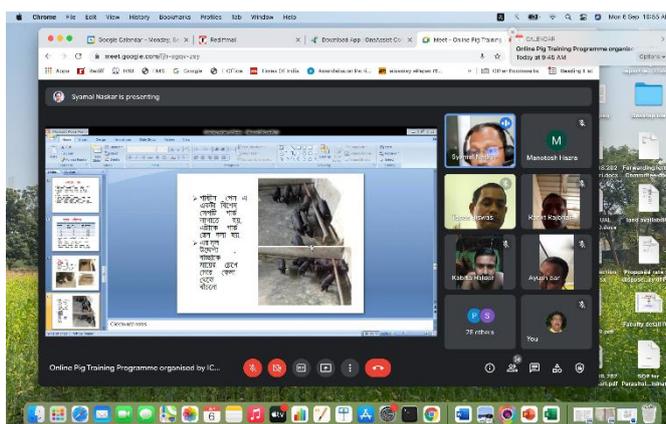


## Eastern Regional Station, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata organised Training on "Scientific Pig Farming" under AICRP on Pig through Virtual Platform

Pig farming is a highly profitable enterprise which offers a window of opportunity for unemployed educated youth and rural women to take up this as a means of their livelihood and income generation. In recent times, the importance of pig farming has increased many-fold, since many people are venturing into this sector to tide over the current Covid-19 pandemic situation. So adoption of pig farming may help in improving food security and overall well-being of this weaker section of the society making them **"Atmanirvar"**.



Against this backdrop, Eastern Regional Station (ERS) of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Kolkata organized a two-day online training programme on **"Scientific Pig Farming"** from **06-07 September, 2021** under AICRP on Pig Project. In total, thirty-three (33) participants, mostly unemployed youths, progressive farmers, farm women and entrepreneurs from different districts of West Bengal registered and participated. The entire programme was conducted through online mode using Google digital platform. The trainees were imparted theoretical knowledge on scientific methods of pig rearing, covering housing and management, nutritional, reproductive and health aspects. Emphasis was also given on practical exposure of the participants through videography of various aspects, including care and management of pigs reared at Kalyani campus of the regional station.



At the outset, the programme started with welcome address by Dr P. S. Banerjee, Station In-charge, ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata, who gave a brief note on ICAR-IVRI, the premier Research institute on animal sciences. Dr Banerjee also highlighted the contributions and role played by IVRI in uplifting livelihood conditions of rural people through implementation of various flagship programmes and schemes in animal husbandry as a whole and piggery in particular.

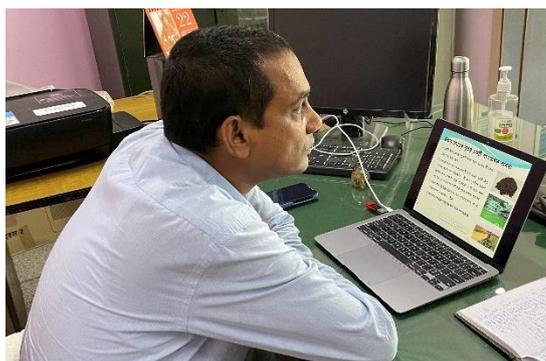


Dr Syamal Naskar, In-charge, Kalyani campus and PI-AICRP on Pig gave a brief outline of the training course and importance of pig rearing in rural economy of India as a whole and eastern region, in particular. Dr Naskar elaborately discussed on "housing and general management practices" required for commercial pig production and also covered the care and management aspects of pregnant sow, gilt and new-born piglets.



Speaking on the occasion, Dr Tapas Kumar Biswas, Senior Scientist discussed on "different breeds and breeding of pig" and advised the participants for selection of animals based on pedigree information and through phenotypic means for better productivity.

Dr R. Bhar, Principal Scientist spoke on "feed, feeding schedule and feed formulation for pig". Dr Bhar apprised the trainees regarding nutritional requirements of pig at different age groups and advocated for formulation of rations using low cost commonly available feed ingredients.



Diseases, notably of bacterial, viral and parasitic origins not only affect the production and productivity but also marketing of livestock, and pig is no exception to this. To address the animal health issues, Dr Dayamoy Mondal, Principal Scientist briefed the participants on “different diseases of pig and their treatment”. During interaction, Dr Mondal explained at length about the signs and symptoms of the most common diseases of pigs, treatments and preventative measures to control thereof. The trainees were also briefed by Dr S. Bag, Principal Scientist, who delivered a talk on “stress management of pig”. While listing out several stressors and their negative effect on animals, Dr Bag suggested many preventative measures that can be taken to minimize stress and improve animal welfare.



During the programme, Dr Premanshu Dandapat, Principal Scientist spoke on “zoonotic diseases of pig and their control measures”. Besides highlighting the most common zoonotic diseases, Dr Dandapat emphasized on the importance of biosecurity measures that are required to be implemented at farm level to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of disease agents. Dr. Samiran Bandyopadhyay, Senior Scientist delivered a lecture on “prevention and control of piglet diarrhoea” During the discussion, Dr Bandyopadhyay advocated for using proper medication as well as maintain hygienic condition of the pig house as effective control measures to control diarrhoea. Dr Bandyopadhyay also highlighted the issue of prudent use of antibiotics resulting in development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in pigs and the way forward to overcome the burgeoning problem. Dr. Sanchay Biswas, Senior Scientist, apprised the trainees about “viral diseases of pig”. During his deliberation, Dr Biswas emphasized the



importance of timely vaccination of pigs, particularly against classical swine fever (CSF) and porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS), that often cause high morbidity and mortality in animals.

Dr. G. K. Das, Principal Scientist delivered a talk on “female reproductive problems and their control measures in pig”. During interaction with participants, Dr Das highlighted the causes of infertility in pigs, important reproductive disorders resulting in abortion, retention of placenta, stillbirth, dystocia etc. and remedial measures thereof. Addressing the participants, Dr A. K. Das, Senior Scientist discussed in an elaborative way on “pork meat quality and its marketing strategies”. During the deliberation, he stressed upon the need of value chain and its contribution as an avenue to enhance house-hold income, well-being and employment generating opportunities.



In between theoretical know-hows, trainees were given practical exposure through video presentation and short clips covering biosecurity measures of pig farm, phenotypic criteria for selection of good sow, boar and gilt, procedure for removal of milk teeth in piglets etc., which was explained by Drs S. Naskar, and Subhasish Bandyopadhyay in a detailed way.

On completion, a group discussion was held through question-and-answer session and during this interactive session, problems raised by the trainees pertaining to health, feeding, housing and management aspects of pig farming were duly addressed by the scientists. At the end, evaluation of the training was made through feedback form submitted by the trainees followed by distribution of **E-Certificate** to all. The entire training programme was moderated by Dr Subhasish Bandyopadhyay, Principal Scientist and Co-PI, AICRP on Pig, while vote of thanks was proposed by Dr S. Naskar, Principal Scientist and PI, AICRP on Pig. The participants were found to be highly motivated after acquiring knowledge on “**Scientific Pig Farming**”.