B - 13

CHARACTERIZATION OF GROWTH IN EXOTIC, CROSSBRED AND INDIGENOUS PIGS

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This study was initiated to analyze the body characteristics of Exotic (E), Exotic × Indigenous (EI) and Indigenous (I) type of pigs. The data was collected from 64 E, 27 EI and 21 I type of animals maintained at the Swine Production Unit of the University of Peradeniya.

Breed groups were compared on the basis of body weight (BW), age and chest girth (CG). The E type had larger body measurements when compared with crossbred and indigenous groups. The increase in the measurement of each body character was more uniform when the trends were studied on an age rather than on a weight or chest girth basis. Within each age class, the EI type was heavier and larger than the I type for each body characteristic and the percentage increase in body weight for the EI type was 86.7%, 35.2%, 3.03% and 18.1% for 2 months, 2-6 months, 7-12 months and 1 year age classes, respectively.

Body weight was highly correlated with chest girth, body length, height at shoulders and hip width the correlations being always greater than 0.73 for the three breed groups. The high and positive correlation between body measurements may suggest a regularity, proportionality and uniformity in the growth process. It is therefore very probable that BW could be predicted accurately by fitting equations which use body measurements such as CG, as independent variables.