

PERFORMANCE OF PIGS UNDER
SMALLHOLDER CONDITIONS IN SRI LANKA

P.Nadesalingam, V. Ravindran and D.D. Gunawardena
Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture,
University of Peradeniya.

The Sri Lankan pig industry is essentially a smallholder's concern and is concentrated around the western coastal area of the country known as the 'pig belt'. The productivity of pigs under such farming situations has not been studied. The productivity of pigs was evaluated by conductivity a survey amongst 104 pig farmers in the 'pig belt' area.

The popular breed of pig was Large White (55%), followed by Landrace (14%) and the indigenous breed (14%). The average age (\pm standard deviation) at first breeding of gilts was 7.7 ± 1.5 months, while the young boars were first used at 7.2 ± 1.2 months. The average litter size at birth and weaning were 8.4 and 6.6, respectively. The average birth and weaning weights were 0.97 ± 0.4 and 6.1 ± 3.9 kg, respectively. The average market weight of 80 kg was reached at 11 months of age. The growth and reproductive performance of pigs under small holder conditions were much lower than those reported under intensive farm conditions in Sri Lanka¹ and elsewhere². The survey revealed that poor feed quality, rather than quantity, was the major contributing factor for the poor performance of pigs.

(This study was funded by a grant from International Foundation of Science, Sweden).

References:

1. Rajamahendran, R. Fernando, R.M.B. (1982). J.Nat. Sci. Council Sri Lanka. 10 : 67.
2. Fahmy, M.H. and Bernard, C.S. (1972). Canadian J. Anim. Sci. 52 : 288