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Training imparted to pig farmers for better production

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Ludhiana: A five-day training programme on, 'hygienic pork production and value addition for entrepreneurship development' for the pig farmers/budding entrepreneurs. Total 36 pig farmers participated in this training programme. O.P.Malav and Rajesh V Wagh were the course coordinators. Manish Kumar Chatili, HoD revealed that the pig population in Punjab was estimated at 0.50 lakhs only. At present there were around 1,000 farmers in the state who were running pig farms and more and more farmers were adopting pig farming as a venture. Pigs are identified as a cash crop as it provides quick returns, due to the marketable weight of fatteners which can be achieved within a period of 6-8 months. However, majority of the farmers selling their produce as live animals to the contractors, supply it to the north eastern states. This apprehends to their income and many of the time they get exploited through the hands of the contractor or middlemen. Therefore, on the demand of the pig farmers, this training programme on value addition was organized by the department. The course content of training programme included selection of pigs, hygienic slaughtering and dressing operations, development and packaging of pork pickle, sausages, nuggets, koftas. The experts also discussed about meat quality standards and guidelines of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines. The participants visited modern pig slaughter unit, Chandigarh to get a better exposure. The successful entrepreneurs and member of Sri Lanka's customs, import and export council also discussed about the export potential of pig meat.

Harish Verma, director extension education released a booklet developed by the department's faculty for this training programme and distributed certificates to the participants on successful completion of the training. AS Nanda, vice chancellor, Gadvasu highlighted that the acquired scientific knowledge on the processing through this training programme will help in providing assured income to the farmers and certainty in marketing of pigs. This will also provide the nutritional security to the people of Punjab. He applauded the efforts of the department and its faculty members.