

## Rural pig rearing survey unlocks intensification pathways in northern Ghana

### Introduction

Pig rearing is an important component of the integrated crop-livestock farming systems in the Africa RISING intervention communities in northern Ghana (Photos 1-3). Little is known about the constraints and opportunities in the rural pig production

### Methods

Researchers from the University for Development Studies and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology conducted a baseline survey to identify key factors that affect pig rearing and prospects for intensification and integration with crop production. They interviewed 114 pig producers in selected Africa RISING intervention communities in the three northern Ghana regions: Northern (9), Upper East (48) and Upper West (57).

### Results summary

Generally, respondents were not trained in pig production and records were not kept. Table 1 shows that farmers use local breeds under semi-intensive and extensive systems. Starter stock was obtained from their neighbors. Farmers largely described housing, health and inadequate feed as major challenges. Farmers provided mainly mud houses roofed with thatch for pigs.

The major source of income for farmers was from the sale of pigs (Table 2). According to respondents, there was a ready market for pigs. They sold mostly bigger/older pigs as and when the need arose. Middlemen, pito brewers and butchers were the main buyers.

### Conclusions

There is the need to develop affordable housing, formulate adequate, but cheaper diets, put in place good preventive health regimes and empower farmers with adequate knowledge and skills to facilitate intensive/integrated pig production with the other aspects of the farmers' agricultural enterprises.



**Photo 1:** Ashanti Black- Local breed



**Photo 2:** Large White



**Photo 3:** Local pig house

**Table 1: Characteristics of the rural pig production systems**

		Region (% of respondents)			Mean
		UER	UWR	NR	
Breeds	Exotic	14.6	8.8	22.2	15
	Local	78.2	82.5	77.8	80
	Crosses	6.2	1.8	0	3
Production	Intensive	27.1	7	88.9	41
	Semi-intensive	64.6	77.2	11.1	51
	Extensive	8.3	8.8	0	6
Housing	Enclosed structures	97.9	68.4	100	89
	Confinement	22.9	5.3	100	43
	Partial confinement	64.6	70.2	0	45
Feeding	Complete feed only	23	24.6	100	49
	Scavenging+Supplement	35.4	64.9	0	33
	Scavenging only	8.3	1.8	0	3
Breeding	Uncontrolled mating	100	100	0	67
	Controlled mating	0	0	100	33
Health	Internal parasites	72.9	36.8	100	70
	External parasites	2.1	1.8	0	1
	African Swine Fever	2.1	5.3	11.1	6
	Diarrhoea	2.1	0	0	1

Region: NR=Northern, UWR=Upper West, UER=Upper East

**Table 2: Rural pig production market channels**

		Region (% of respondents)			Mean
		UER	UWR	NR	
Marketing	Sale	66.5	70.1	88.9	75
	No sale	33.5	29.9	11.1	25
Market channels	Middlemen	47.9	35.1	77.8	54
	Pito brewers	4.2	3.5	0	3
	Butchers	35.6	35.2	66.7	46
Profitability	Profitable	87.5	73.7	100	87
	Not profitable	12.5	26.3	0	13

Region: NR=Northern, UWR=Upper West, UER=Upper East



The Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads an associated project on monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.

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