

The Project on Capacity Development for Sustainable Forest Resource Management in Solomon Islands

Background

The MOFR-JICA Project supported the development of the Livelihood Improvement Detailed Activity Implementation Plans at the Pilot Sites, which consist of two sub-components: Agroforestry and Other Livelihood Improvements Activities. The implementation plan for each sub-component was formulated separately.

For the Other Livelihood Improvement Activities, a number of activities were identified as potential activities for each pilot site. Pig farming was selected as the first activity for both pilot sites mainly due to the reason that it can contribute to enhance community's organisational capacity through various aspects such as training, interest group organisation, material procurement, revolving fund management, marketing, monitoring and review, etc.

Implementation

The implementation process of pig farming so far involves five major activities; i) training, ii) construction of pig house, iii) procurement of piglets and pig feeds, iv) day-to-day pig raising and v) discussion on business plan. During the course of the implementation processes, some lessons were learned and addressed with ways forward.

(1) Training

For the preparation of the pig farming training, two staff from Livestock Production and Veterinary Services Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MOAL), were contracted to be trainers. The training contents were developed with assistance from the trainers. The actual training events were undertaken in each pilot site for five days from November to December 2020. The Project also coordinated the participation of the MOFR counterparts (C/Ps) in the training and they were given opportunities for learning on training management, approaches to the local people, participatory methods, and technical extension.

The areas covered in the lecture session include pig feeding, planning a pig enterprise and sow management and breeding, and other topics. It also involved hands-on practices like how to mix pig feeds (the ratio of millrun, copra mill & fish mill), tooth plucking of piglets, how to prepare and administer an injection, the different pig medication and their purposes, and castration. The local way of pig raising and its practices were also inspected. The training ended with a pig slaughtered and butchered to observed internal organs, identify diseases, and demonstrate the correct way to slaughter and prepare a pig for the commercial market.

After the training events, an interest group (IG), consisting of households who wish to participate in the pig farming was organised in each pilot site to lead the pig farming activities.



Trainer demonstrates how to mix pig feed



Trainer plucks teeth of a piglet



Trainer performs castration to a piglet



Trainer administers injection to a piglet



Trainer examines liver of a pig for disease



Trainer demonstrates how to cut up a pig

(2) Construction of pig houses

During the training events, the trainers also provided technical advice to the design of the pig houses. With the available resources, each pilot community constructed its pig house with consideration of cost-cutting measures.

Falake

The community has a few resourceful people in the field of carpentry. Local materials like sago palm leaves, sand, timber, bamboo and labour came from community contribution. Bamboo was used instead of a concrete wire mesh. Sand was collected from the seashore nearby and sago palm leaves for the roofing were bought from the surrounding community. Their collective skills and innovative ideas helps cut costs a lot. The project assisted with transportation, other building materials, materials for the water supply system.



Construction of cement slab



Children participate carrying sand



Sago palm leaves loaded on truck



Covering roof with sago palm leaves



Partition of rooms inside pig house



Pig house ready to raise pigs

Komuniboli

The community also has a few skilful members in the field of carpentry. The community provided local materials like sago palm leaves, timber, tie ropes, sand, construction tools and labour. Participating MOFR C/Ps were able to see the development and even participated. The project assisted with other building materials and materials for the water supply system. The IG members worked well together in the construction of the pig house.



Concrete mesh wire for cement slab



Ground is levelled; MOFR C/P looking on



Plain copper placed around post



Awaiting cement slab to dry



Roof covered with sago palm leaves



Drainage and partitions of pig stable

(3) Procurement of piglets and pig feeds

Purchase and transportation of piglets and pig feeds for each pilot site occurred at different times and were delivered safely. For Falake 11 piglets and 1 boar while for Komuniboli 10 piglets and 1 boar, were purchased. Complete feed (for grower, weaner and finisher stages) was purchased for both communities.

Falake

By August of 2021, the project facilitated payment of piglets and pig feeds, other necessary items and transportation costs for pig farming activity at Falake. A truck was hired to transport the piglets and pig feeds from different locations within Honiara city to Point Cruz wharf. These were then transported via a ferry to Auki town. At Auki town two tri-ton trucks transport everything all the way to Falake community.



Selection of piglets at a pig farm



Piglets transported to truck



Loading piglets onto truck



Pig feeds loaded onto truck



Pig feeds loaded onto ferry



Piglets in cage in the ferry

Komuniboli

By October of 2021, the IG members were underway with pig farming activity. Piglets and pig feeds were purchased and transported via two separate trucks. The piglets were transported in two separate cages. The trucks collected the piglets and pig feeds from different locations within Honiara city and transported them straight to the community.



A boar was selected at MoAL pig farm



Piglets transported in cage



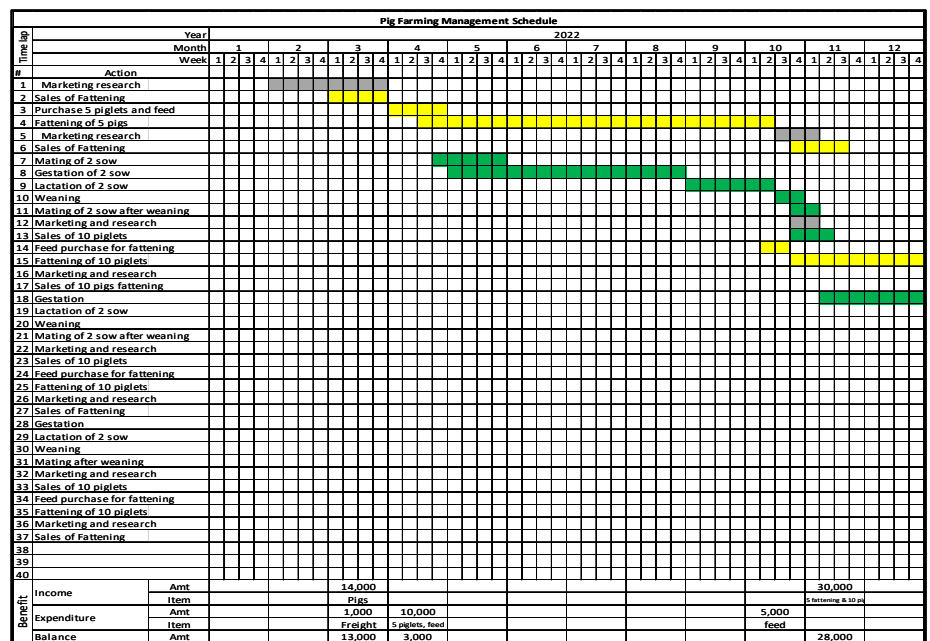
Loading pig feeds into truck

All the IG members in the both pilot sites are involved in daily pig raising. The IGs in each pilot site established rules and agreed on the responsibility in cleaning of the pig pens and feeding pigs, and the daily tasks are shared by all the IG members in rotation.



Household schedule (Komuniboli)

Recently the project began to facilitate discussions on concrete business plan in each pilot community. Although the business plan including application of a revolving fund system had sporadically been discussed since the initiation of pig farming activity, this was the time to make a practical and realistic business plan as some raised pigs would be ready for sale soon. The project specifically assisted each pilot community to draw up sales and breeding plans and schedule for the time being. The project also helped develop criteria and guidelines for borrowing and management of the revolving fund.



Business plan for Komuniboli

As intended at the beginning of the activity, it can be observed that each pilot community could have enhanced organisational capacity through various sorts of processes. However, on the other hands, they had been facing problems such as insufficient participation of the IG members to the daily management. For this sake, the project assisted the pilot communities to review the community's organisational structure and roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders. It is hope that this initiatives will be continued as those are the key for success of the pig farming business rather than the technical aspects of pig raising. The project will further seek practical ways for each community to be self-reliant and self-sustainable in the management of pig faming.