Practical experiences from field: what we learned during these years working with long tail pigs
Critical point to analyse and consider:

- Feed and availability of feed
- Health status
- Enrichment material
- Space and general environment condition
- Genetics
- Motivation
- Farmer and stockman training
Quality of feed

- Healthy row materials (no mycotoxin)
- Good presence of fiber (no fermentable fiber)
- Triptophane (relation with Lysin: 0,22 to 1)
- Magnesium oxide 0,2%
- Yeast (with cell wall)
- Vitamin PP 0,1%
- Vitamin group B in high quantity

- No antinutritional effect of some row material (toasted soybean)

Very difficult at the moment for economical situation to produce the best feed as possible
Feed availability
Ad libitum feeding → 10 places for 30 pigs

8 hour a day the place is available _ at least 4 hours
Health status is crucial

→ Prrs viremia is devastating for piglets
→ Fever, cough, anorexia

→ But PCV2, Flu and bacterial diseases can do the same disaster

Prrs positive unstable farm could be very challenging
PCV2 control is necessary
ENRICHMENT MATERIAL

• STRAW BEDDING IS THE BEST
• STRAW OR BETTER LONG HAY IN RACK QUITE GOOD

When straw is not usable? (floor or ASF)

• Different enrichment
• Iron chain
• Wood very well disposed
• Rope
• Paper

In case of outbreak surprise them with special effects
SPACE IS NOT ENOUGH

HEALTH IS NOT ENOUGH

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ARE A KEY FACTOR

→ TEMPERATURE _ especially rapid changes
→ Oxigen and NH3
→ Ventilation _ air draught / wrong flow / no flow
CLIMATE AND TEMPERATURE?
VENTILATION?
AIR QUALITY?
AIR FLOW?
Different sows and different boars means different requirement of this animals

Are they pigs? Yes but …..

- They eat in different way
- They grow in different way
- They have different behaviour
- They have different resistance to diseases

→ They need different care
MARKET DRIVEN EXPERIENCES ➔ SEVERAL AT THE MOMENT ➔ KEY POINT IS LONG TAILS

SEVERAL FARMER ARE INTERESTED FOR MORE INCOME ➔ 8-10 € / PIG
RESULT → SOME NICE EXPERIENCES
More production of pigs with long tails

Some disasters → a lot of lesions at slaughter

Welfare issue in not trained farm

In addition to a reasonably expected increase of tail-lesions, the simultaneous increase of lung and stomach lesions suggests, respectively, the risk of septicemic infection from an infected tail and a possible involvement of stressful conditions.
Training farmers very difficult but when the challenge is clear they are open to learn.

Farmers need help and motivation!!

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH FARMERS??

Very big issue

Vet could be very useful and open mind of their client

but we need to use some tricks!!
HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH FARMERS??

I started to organize meeting among farmers and managing relationship

Farmer experience is easier to communicate to other farmers

→ Promote farmers meeting but organized and managed by the vet
→ That could be a key for successful campaign for producing more pigs with long tail

→ After trials they are less scared and very optimistic
→ You need to face problem and then solve otherwise nobody is moving
THANK YOU