

*This document is transcribed from 50 pages of notes captured at a [co-creative community dialogue event](#) held at the Mae Sot trash dump community about raising pigs. The notes were originally captured by burmese speaking small group facilitators, who then translated them into english. The comments from 100+ community members have been grouped below for easier reading. (Repeated comments indicate that more than 1 person made the same point.)*

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## QUESTION: What are the good things you can think of about raising pigs? (10 min)

### Income

- earn money
- if it's big enough we can sell it
- we only invest 1500 bhat but can get more money by selling it
- sell a pig and buy two more
- can start a new business or buy a new pig
- pigs grow & make baby pigs, can sell and earn more income
- baby pigs make more income
- they can produce more piglets and sell
- can reproduce them
- start business
- baby pigs bring money
- with many pigs we have more money
- guarantee for living/health
- make more money
- save money
- it will be easier to get income
- pig can be sold when money is needed
- get more money
- can save money
- money problem can be solved
- can solve the difficulties
- we can eat the pig or sell the pig

### Use of profits

- can spend income where we want to spend

#### School

- with money we can give to monks, live better, pay for children's school
- money for children's education
- can earn money for students
- can support the children and send to school
- can prepare the future of our children
- if there are more pigs we can get money to send our children to school
- can contribute extra money to schooling
- capable of providing money for children

#### Temple

- my son can become a little monk

- money earned can also be donated (to monks)
- save money / do donation

### Household

- extra money can be spent on better health, food, clothes, house
- can make repairs to the house
- can buy better food
- can invest in more things
- can buy things that are needed
- general uses
- household use
- emergency
- some spare money to spend when needed

### Burma

- support needs of family in Burma
- can buy land in burma
- can build a house in burma

### Other benefits

- good for family
- help elders
- help orphans
- help neighbors
- pigs cannot be harmful to others' homes if we take care of the pigs
- kids love pigs - if there is no friend, can play with or be friend with pig

### QUESTION: What are the challenges in raising pigs? (10 min)

#### Pigs' health

- the pigs need to take medicine
- In bad weather the pigs get ill, sometimes die
- every day need to take care of pigs health
- sometimes the pigs get sick
- be careful of pigs' health in the hot season
- we need to take care of their health
- it can affect our health
- if they get sick it is difficult to take them to the clinic
- we always need to check them
- we will lose if they die
- there is no vet
- we need to buy some medicine for their health
- can't afford medicine for them
- need people to treat sickness

- health care
- some pigs died because of the fire
- after the fire some people couldn't care for their pigs
- pigs have to take medicine
- they need body exercise, have to walk sometimes

### Effects on human health

- it can be harmful for people to live very near the pigs' house
- have to wash your hands after holding the pig
- smell is bad for people's health
- smell bad
- bad smell
- bad smell
- harmful for some people
- some people feel sick because of pigs
- affect health negatively
- people can't sleep from the noise
- noisy
- we lose our sleep
- don't get enough sleep

### Feeding

- feed the pigs 3 times/day
- need to check the pig's food before feeding to check for bad food
- sometimes need to buy food for pigs
- cook pigs' food and be clean
- mix pigs' food with other vegetables
- put fish in the food to make them want to eat
- rice must be cooked to feed them
- at night people find food from the prison car
- if we don't find food they have to buy
- buying food costs money
- looking for pigs' food
- if we can't buy from market need to cook rice from home
- be careful choosing food - don't feed them sticky rice
- we need to feed them on time and every day
- there are difficulties to feed them
- we need to hire a person to carry food to the pigs
- if we cannot get food from outside we need to share our food with them
- finding foods
- waking up early to find food for pigs
- we have to compete for food
- can't buy them enough food

- not enough food sometimes
- need more money for food
- food shortages
- difficulties getting food from the dump
- not enough food
- have to spend some money for pig food
- difficult to find pigs food
- if people eat one time pigs eat two times
- difficult to find foods
- dangerous to find pigs food from rubbish dump

### Space/environment issues

- need space for them
- should build a house for the pigs
- space problem when flood happens
- a good house for the pigs is needed
- have to spend money on pig pens
- if many pigs together can be difficult
- during the fire people had to run with their pigs to escape

### Cleanliness

- need to clean the pigs house
- give water and clean their bodies
- we need to clean them
- we need to clean their house daily
- have to bathe them
- have to clean the pigs' space
- take care to bathe them
- water needed
- have to care and clean pigs' bodies
- need water to clean their bodies

### Time requirements

- needs a lot of time
- it takes time to care for the pigs
- free time now spent on pigs
- it's a lot to take care of house and pigs
- need more time to take care
- have to look for them when they go out
- pigs are demanding
- time burden
- difficulties with looking for the pigs
- have to give time for their care

- more time to clean the pig pen
- we need to look after the pigs
- if the pig is sick I can't work my job
- give more time for pig than for job
- if the pigs walk freely, owner has to find it

### Reproduction issues

- to have babies need to find a male pig
- if the pig wants to be pregnant they run away, jump
- if the pig has babies, need to care for the babies
- need to clean extra for the little pigs
- watch that piglets aren't bitten by other animals
- if 2 pigs are pregnant put one in house
- When pigs are born is a busy time - need to be careful they don't die
- hard finding a male pig to impregnate
- be careful that pregnant pigs don't miscarry
- newborn pigs need milk 5 times in the night
- sometimes people have to feed the babies milk
- keep newborn pigs in a basket so they won't die
- be careful that newborns don't get stuck under the mother's body
- give the pigs more showers when near newborns
- they have to pay 500 bhat for male pigs to impregnate
- there are few male pigs at the dump
- hard to find male pig
- difficulty finding a male pig for mating

### Social challenges

- some of us are inexperienced
- social problems with neighbors
- competition for food from the dump
- people have problem with the nearby field owner
- conflict with landowner
- sometimes the dogs bite the pigs
- dogs bite the pigs
- when pigs fear they become difficult

**QUESTION: What can you do to make sure your pig lives healthy without burdening your own family's health? (15 min)**

### Housing

- Pig's houses should be built a little far from people's homes
- Keep pigs away from people
- put space between house and pig pen

- build the pigs house a little far from human beings
- keep distance between pigs and house
- put pigs together in a pen to use less space
- make a pen for the pigs
- make the pen safe
- make a roof for the pig pen
- pig's house should have a roof
- build a tall house for the pigs because of water/floods
- put the pigs near the house but not under
- rebuild broken pens
- build a good pen away from people
- build pens a little far from house
- don't live with pigs in the same house

## Healthcare

- health care for the pig
- Pig medicine must be ready
- treat with medicine at the beginning of a pig's sickness
- Be more careful in summer
- health care
- go to clinic when pig gets sick
- Take care that the pig doesn't get injured
- be aware that pigs can die
- some pigs are coughing
- keep pigs safe
- give iodine (salt)
- give medicines to the pigs when they get sick
- check the health of the pig once a week
- need a blanket and fire during the very cold season
- use mosquito killer (mosquito fire stick)
- use a mosquito net for the pig
- protect it from mosquitoes
- protect them from mosquitoes
- set fire to not get bit by mosquitoes
- prevent bites from dogs and mosquitoes
- take care of our own health

## Feeding

- feed regularly
- provide fresh food
- put the food plate higher than the floor so pig's waste doesn't enter
- feed pigs regularly so they don't scream and keep people awake
- boil the pigs food

- provide nutritious foods
- don't fight with each other for pigs' food, just buy it
- provide food on time
- provide nutritious foods
- only provide fresh food to pig
- feed them 3x per day
- use gloves when collecting food for the pigs
- fresh food for both pigs and people
- take care to give nutritious food
- sometimes put some meat in the food
- Fresh food
- give fresh food
- provide enough clean and nutritious food
- make food for baby pigs
- feed them vegetables to become fat
- eat good and nutritious food
- feed them 3x per day

## Cleanliness

- Clean the pig's house 3 times every day
- clean the pig's food plate
- clean the floor of the pen
- be careful not to wait too long before washing
- clean pig pen twice daily
- make sure the waste can flow out easily
- after feeding/washing the pig wash hands with soap
- shower the pigs at least once per week
- wash hands after cleaning the pigs
- clean the pig's house daily
- clean the pigs every day
- clean the pigs house every day
- use gloves and mask when you clean pigs' waste
- clean pig's house
- pay attention to personal hygiene
- clean up pig's waste every day
- after feeding bathe the pigs
- clean the pen daily
- give a shower
- fresh water for both pigs and people
- clean the pigs
- wash hands after taking care of pigs
- terrible smell
- clean the pens regularly

- clean yourself after feeding pigs
- give showers to pigs when hot
- bathe the pigs
- keep pens and food plates clean
- stay away from the bad smell
- keep ourself clean after feeding the pigs
- take shower two times a day after feeding pigs
- give shower to the pig
- clean pens regularly
- divide the food and sleep place
- give shower before feeding
- clean the pigs space every week

### Other tips/issues

- Learn about pig problems from a more experienced person
- Check that children don't touch and get affected by pigs' sickness
- take turns cooking food so that one can rest
- don't eat meat from sick pigs
- give some clothes to the pig when it's cold
- let the pig walk freely sometimes and keep in pen sometimes
- don't give water when the sun is too hot
- you can work but also take care of the pigs

## QUESTION: What issues affect how much money you make raising pigs? (15 min)

### Business planning

- First one pig sells, then buy another 2 pigs
- buy another pig after selling
- When a pig is sold, use some money to buy another
- buy a new pig from profit
- Raise more pigs
- female pigs grow faster than males (and produce babies too)
- reproduce pigs

### Sales process

- When selling the pigs, find 3 or 4 buyers
- Inquire about the correct price before selling
- do not sell to buyers that offer low prices
- Don't sell on credit
- sell to a cash buyer
- can hope for 3500 bhat profit
- we might get paid less than expected

- after raising for 1 year we can get a good price
- Sell them when nobody else is selling their pigs
- only sell to someone who offers a good price
- find the right time to get a good price
- care about the price
- only sell pigs with the price you want
- sell the pig to others not living at the dump
- get more money when it is (temple) donation time
- some people don't give a good price
- ignorant of how much pigs are worth
- be knowledgeable about up to date pig price
- got 4800 bhat - expected 5000
- sold 2 big pigs got 11,000 bhat, bought 7 piglets back
- sold 1 pig bought 2 pigs
- after sell 1 pig bought 3 pigs back and bought something for house
- be patient to wait for good price
- get a good price in rainy season
- sell the pig to one who gives more money
- if we sell the pigs that we didn't kill we will get more money

## Feeding

- to get good price, feed pig 3x per day
- feed nutritious food
- feed regularly with enough food
- feed the pigs so they become fat
- feed the pigs more vegetables so they have better health
- Feed them well and at specific times
- when we look for food ourselves instead of buying, we can reduce expenses
- feed them regularly and at exact times
- provide enough food
- provide nutritious food
- feed it the food on time
- nutritious food so they are healthy
- find food in the dump
- give enough food to the pig
- sometimes give food from the dump, sometimes cook
- give more food to eat so pig becomes bigger

## Cleanliness

- 1st pig was sold because of living condition
- need more space for pigs
- big house is needed to be cleaner
- help the pig stay clean

- keep the place clean
- clean the pen
- give a shower daily

### Pigs' health

- be careful of the pig's health
- if the pigs are healthy a good price can be got
- medicines are needed for their health
- more care is needed when the weather is too hot or too cold
- care for their health, since we cannot get a good price if they are sick
- health care for pigs
- set fires to keep away mosquitoes
- give them vitamins to grow
- underweight
- not healthy
- give vitamins for pig growth
- pig can get sick in hot weather
- give shower to the pig 3x per day when it's hot

### Motivations

- spend profit on children
- donate profit to monks
- save for school, healthcare, emergency case
- save money
- use for general usages
- can donate (to temple/monks) from savings
- use money from pigs to send kids to school, also to buy another pig & donate to temple

**QUESTION: What will make it comfortable for another 120 pigs to live here?** (15 min)

### Space & housing

- build larger houses for the pigs
- if there are many pigs the pigs house should be extended
- should put pigs' houses a little far from people houses
- people and pigs should live separately
- find some space for the pigs
- have enough and clean space for the pigs
- make more spaces for pigs
- pigs need a clean place and food
- put pigs house in good place

## Feeding

- spend more time to find pig food
- feed the pigs vegetables
- have enough food
- nutritious food
- fresh food
- if there are many pigs and the food is not enough we will share our food with them
- don't need to buy food for the pigs - only sometimes
- if there is no food at the dump, we can buy it
- need enough food supply
- buy food for them if food is not enough

## Healthcare

- take good care of the pigs
- keep them healthy
- pig medicine should be ready
- in hot weather pigs should be cleaned daily
- give a shower daily so the environment isn't made dirty
- be careful of communicable diseases
- clean up pig's space regularly
- take care of health
- clean the pen every day
- if there is a fire on the dump, move the pigs to a place far from the fire
- clean the pigs' house so the smell doesn't harm people
- be clean
- because pigs live at the dump, need to clean 3x per day
- take care of their health
- buy medicines for the pigs

## Facing the challenges

- one more pig is better
- if we have enough money from pigs we can leave the dump
- if we raise pigs house by house it will be ok
- better to raise pigs separately
- pigs can't live all together
- it can be comfortable if we take good care
- take responsibility
- look after & take care not to give troubles to others
- our neighbors can also get money
- by being careful it can be more productive
- let them go out twice a week so don't have to look for them daily
- many pigs might bring many problems but we will face them

- no pain no gain
- look after them
- take care of them
- share ideas and methods on how to raise pigs
- share the experiences we have