

Abstract

A survey to characterize pig production systems was carried out among pig farmers in Embu West Sub County in Kenya. Data was collected through observations, photography and structured questionnaires administered to 104 pig rearing households. Majority (63.3%) kept between 1 to 4 pigs. About 85% utilised family labour with 70% of the households having between 2 to 5 members. Large White was the main breed type (65.4%). Breeding stock was mainly sourced locally from other farmers (95.2%). All farmers practiced intensive mixed production system. Main production challenges were lack of high quality breeding stock (95.2%), feeding (95%), housing (88%) and diseases and pests (84%). Majority (92.3%) slaughtered and sold pork locally. About 40.4% and 10.6% of the pig farmers were members to Saccos and table banking groups respectively. Other livestock kept include; poultry, mostly free range (97.1%), cattle, mainly for dairy (93.3%), shoats (16.3%) and fish (1.0%).