



# Results of an inquiry into 106 farms with small sow herds as a supplementary production. I. – Description of the farms, their environment and performance

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## I. — CREATION AND WORKING OF NON SPECIALIZED PIG PRODUCTION UNITS

**Results of an inquiry into 106 farms  
with small sow herds as a supplementary production**

## 1. — Description of the farms, their environment and performance

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The sample of farms investigated cannot be considered as representative because of the criteria used to choose them, i.e. size of herd ranging from 10 to 25 sows and management control during 1977 and 1978. The size of the farms was large and exceeded the national average both respect to SAU\* as to the number of UGB\*\*.

A difference was found between the rearing farms (69) and the rearing fattening farms (37). The cattle stock was larger in the rearing than in the rearing-fattening farms.

Most farmers who intended to give up their pig production were rearers. A development of the production was especially observed among farmers whose agricultural area and cattle stock could not be increased.

Most farmers belonged to co-operation associations providing security and reliable prices. Farmers against these associations considered that the prices paid were too low and the expenses too high. The main problems encountered in the farms concerned the housing of the animals and the health of the piglets.

The technical results of the farms involved in the inquiry were similar to those of specialized farms of greater size. The profit margin per sow and per year was almost the same and because of the lower structural expenses the income of the work per sow and per year was higher in these small production units. However the working time being higher in these farms, the hourly income was almost similar for the two types of production units. This permits to point out once again the low profit earning capacity of rearing farms.

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## 2. — Herd management

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The experimental sample included 69 pig rearing farms and 37 rearing-fattening farms with an average herd size of 17.76 and 19.58 sows, respectively.

The performance recorded in the rearing farms were 17.4 piglets ( $\nu = 3.3$ ) per sow and

(\*) SAU = Agricultural area (farmland)

(\*\*) UGB = Stocking rate I.U./ha.