

# **1. MATSYAFED FISH NET FACTORY- A SUCESSFUL FISHERMEN INTLATIVE WITH RKVY**



## **2. CATEGORY- INFRASTRUCTURE CUM LIVELIHOOD**

### **3. CHALLENGE:**

Kerala state is with a coastal line of about 590KM and having a fishermen population about a million people. The total number of active fishermen is about 1.85 lakhs and which support the entire one million people for their livelihood. The life of fishermen is very hard as there is no guarantee of return in fishing. The fishing activity is highly capital intensive and fishermen depend on the money lenders for their capital. Ever since mechanisation and motorisation has introduced the operating cost has gone up like anything which made the activity highly complicated. Matsyafed is an initiative of traditional fishermen under cooperative fold with an objective to improve the socioeconomic condition of the traditional fishermen. The Cooperative federation with about 4 lakh members is supporting in providing credit for input in kind as well as in marketing of their catches and building an institutional frame work to support in all their activities.

Fishing net is a major input which amounts almost 35-40% of the traditional fishermen's capital cost. Getting good quality fishing net at reasonable cost in time to fishermen is a challenge which is very critical in fish production as well as in reduction of capital cost. The

quality of the net includes technology part as well as large investment which are possible for fishermen only through schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Creation of such a facility with a capacity of 500 tones per annum with an investment of rs.30croes along with latest technology in a calculated time frame is a real challenge. To put the facility into operational level is still a bigger challenge as it requires a reasonable size of trained man power along with number unskilled laborers’.



#### **4. INITIATIVE:**

Kerala Govt. has sanctioned about 2.5 acres of land at Muttathara in Trivandrum and around 2 crores as plan fund for the fishnet factory project. RKVY has sanctioned 27 crores as the fund for this project and Matsyafed has made a provision of Rs .one crore as total investment for 500 ton capacity plant is Rs.30 crore. With the above fund Matsyafed has constructed a factory building with an area of 55000 sq ft for the entire plant. Matsyafed has imported 30 hi-tech Japanese make Amita fishnet making machines through International competitive bidding (ICB).

The processing machine like length stretching machine, dyeing machine, centrifugal separator and Steam boiler to process the net produced in these netting machines. This will provide best quality fishnets to the traditional fishermen at a reasonable price in time.

The details of the machinery installed in the factory are given below:

SI No	Details of the machine	No of machines
1	Amita Net machine MSA 6-60	10 Nos
2	Amita Net machine MSB 7-60	15 Nos
3	Amita Net machine MSW 9-60	3 Nos

4	Amita Net machine MSA 14-30	1 No
5	Amita Net machine MSA 18-25	1 No
6	Amita bobbin winders	60 Nos
7	Thermax Boiler 600 kg	1 No
8	Dyeing machine 200 kg	1 No
9	Length Stretching machine	2 Nos
10	Centrifugal separator 75 kg	1 No



Thus with in span of 15 months all machines were installed and trail production has started in the factory. All machines from Japan were imported as components and have assembled in the factory premises with the support of the Japanese technicians.

## **5. KEY RESULT:**

The most modern fishnet factory with a capacity of 500 tons per annum was established with all kinds of processing facility in Muttathra. All the processing facility made the unit can make best quality fishnet products at reasonable cost. This factory can produce all kind of fishnet required for the fishermen especially that of the southern districts of Kerala. The total capacity of the federation has increased to 1650 tons which is about 40% of the Kerala market and about 60% of the traditional fishermen requirement.

## **6. IMPACT:**

The project helped to increase the production capacity of Matsyafed to 1650 tonnes per annum and made better availability of fishnets to traditional fishermen. This has reduced loss of fishing days and also decrease in capital cost. The price of the fishing net has reduced to around 10-15% especially on items used in southern part of the Kerala. The larger impact of the project is that the private fishnet manufactures operates mostly from Nagercovil also forced

to reduce their selling price which has larger bearing on the markets of Kerala as well as Tamilnadu. The processing facility and high end technology forced to private manufactures too to improve the quality of the net produced and as such there is an increase in the quality of fishnet available in the market.

## **7. LESSONS LEARNED:**

The project was planned in such way that the construction and installation of machines could be completed in 18 months time. It is a record that the kind of project implementation was possible through such a short period in public sector. If all the activities are organised well project can be completed in short period and cost escalation can be avoided. The PERT and CPM techniques were used to reduce the time lag in the project. Timely availability of fund is also a factor which helped to complete the project in time.

Technical staffs were recruited during the machine installation so that the skilled workers got exposed to the installation and techniques of machines along with the Japanese technicians. Care has taken to ensure the skilled workers are recruited below the age of 25 which has resulted in ensuring the quality of the man power.

## **8. SUPPORTING QUOTES AND IMAGES**

“A world class facility in India for fishnet industry” is the opinion given by Mr.Shafiulla, CEO, Glofil fibres, Chennai, that have around 30 years of exposure to fishnet industry.

“Only Matsyafed can do it in Indian fishnet Industry” Deb Bhattacharya, Business Head, SRF Ltd, New Delhi, about the fishnet factory at Trivandrum.

“At last we also have a fishnet factory at Trivandrum” Felix, President of Mariyanad primary fishermen cooperative society said about Matsyafed fish net factory.

## **9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**





The fishnet factory building was built with technical consultancy with M/S KITCO (Kerala Industrial and technical Consultancy Organisation), Govt undertaking. This has helped us to use the truss less technology for factory shed of dimension 36m x 60m without any pillar. This is the first time this technology has used in Kerala for construction of any building of factory shed. The service of the consultant was useful in timely completion of the project.

The consultancy for selection of machinery and processing equipment was carried out by the expertise of Matsyafed and used the services of Dr.Saly Thomas, Senior scientist, CIFT, Cochin and Dr.Bijumon, Sr.Instructor, CIFNET, Cochin.