

## **Multi Purpose Farm Pond (MPFP) a new dimension in developing rural livelihoods**

Sri Golok Bihari Das, S/o Late Gopal Chandra Das of village Kishmat Krushnapur of Basudevpur Block of Bhadrak district is a poor marginal farmer belongs to BPL category having scanty sources of income from agriculture. He was having dream to excavate a tank of his own, but due to limited resources he could not able to succeed. In the year 2010 he came to know the MGNREGS programme from AFO Basudevpur that Government is providing free pond. Being a job card holder he excavated 0.20 ha water area near to his homestead land in



Kismat Krushnapur village with assistance under MGNREGS programme through District Fisheries Officer, Bhadrak and completed the tank during April 2011. Then he started cultivation of vegetables on the embankment like Pumpkin, Ladies finger, Papaya, Banana and some green vegetables and got approximately 5 quintal ladies finger and 8 quintals pumpkin and earned Rs



17,000/-. During August 2011 he prepared the tank for fingerling rearing and stocked 30,000 IMC, 3000 Minor carp and 500 Paku under close supervision of AFO Basudevpur. An amount of Rs. 30,000/- input loan was sanctioned under Matsya Credit Card with 50% subsidy support from RKVY from Balasore Bhadrak Central Co-op Bank, Basudevpur.

Now Sri Das says that the available fingerling in his farm pond is around 20000 along with about 200 nos. of table size fishes weighing about 400-500g each and 2500 nos. of minor carp and 400 nos. of Paku. He is planning to sell the above fingerlings and is expecting to earn Rs.1,00,000/- from fish excluding vegetable cultivation. According to Sri Das integrated fish farming with horticulture is an alluring option for generating rural livelihood. He also stated that prior fish farming he was doing paddy in that field and annual average income was Rs. 5000/-.

As this is one of the ideal multipurpose farm pond with much alluring income, the farmers of nearby villages visited this project and some of them are motivated to take up such integrated project. He is very much indebted to Fisheries dept for whole hearted support for making this project a great success.

Sri Ramesh Ch Biswal a resident of Malang, Gopalpur of Bahanaga block in Balasore dist belongs to BPL category and was dependent on paddy cultivation for his livelihood. He was looking for an opportunity and attracted towards pisciculture due to its feasibility of huge profit. He contacted the AFO Bahanaga block and came to know about the excavation of multipurpose farm pond under MGNREGS. Being a job card holder he submitted application and excavated 0.2 ha tank under the guidance of AFO with assistance of Rs.1.15 lakhs from DFO-cum-CEO,FFDA,Balasore. But his dreams became reality by receiving training on fingerling rearing and prawn culture. He stocked 12,000 freshwater prawn seed of *M. rosenbergi* & 50,000 IMC fry after being financed Rs.30,000/- for input through Matsya credit card under RKVY assistance of Rs.15,000 by Central Co-operative Bank, Bahanaga. He was



following the technical advice of AFO from time to time for maintaining the culture operation properly. He has also taken up horticulture activities like banana, papaya, pumpkin and other vegetables on the embankment of the farm pond. He sold about 25,000 advanced fingerling and got Rs 50,000/ . He also sold vegetables & got Rs 7,5000/ thus he is getting some regular income out of this integrated project of mult i purpose farm pond. He is very happy now as his entire family got employment livelihood support through this Project.

