

CAGE CULTURE IN SALIA RESERVIOR (RKVY)



Addressing to the Vision Statement 2020, “To be a pioneer in aquaculture development and fisheries extension for ensuring food security, livelihood, welfare of fisheries and employment generation” of the Odisha Fisheries Policy, 2015 it is recommended that, aquaculture can be improved by providing extension services and inputs to improve food security and the economic status of the local community. Cage culture practice is playing a pioneer role in enhancing the fish production and providing livelihood in the state of Odisha.

Salia Irrigation Project is a medium irrigation project meant primarily for irrigation purpose. It is proposed across the river Sialia or locally called Salia, a tributary of river Salia, an east flowing river between Mahanadi and Pennar basin in Odisha. It's situated 15 kms from Banpur town under the Khordha Irrigation Division of water resources department, Government of Odisha. Here one can enjoy the beauty of the nature. The total length of the river is about 30 miles with mean water spread area 180 Ha. The dam has been constructed in the catchment area which is about 69,000 acres connecting two hills on both sides and serves as a medium irrigation project. The project work started during the IInd Five year plan and was completed during the Vth Five year plan during the year 1977.

The state Fisheries Department emphasized on organizing a registered Fishermen society entitled “Diankoli Primary Fishermen Cooperative Society” during late 70s. The fisher communities in the periphery of the Salia reservoir were involved with an objective to enhance the fish production and provide self-employment. After implementation of State

Reservoir Policy the society members are depositing the total lease value of Rs.61,200/- every financial year within the stipulated time period. The society members are also abided to the OCS Act & Rules. The Annual general body meeting is held on 2nd week of April every year followed by at least one Board of Directors Meeting every month for the betterment of their business and society.

The members voluntarily started cage culture in the Salia reservoir during the year 2010-11 out of their own funds and created a mile stone among the reservoir based Fisheries Cooperative Societies of the State. The Fisheries department further put ample emphasis on implementation of Mega Cage Culture practice during 2013-14 **under RKVY scheme** constructing 24 batteries. The fry and fingerlings are collected from the Government fish farms and reared in captive nurseries and pens near the reservoir for stocking. The Society is now harvesting 225Kg/Ha which is quite encouraging. The fish harvested is supplied to the markets of Beguniapada, Kholikote, Balugaon, Banapur and even to Bhubaneswar on peak harvest during Rainy season. Profit per member of the society has shown six fold increase from Rs.13560 to Rs.83517. They have deposited a colourful amount of Rs.3,00,000 in the society savings account excluding all the expenditures and share distribution among stakeholders.

