

“TALE OF A NEWBIE FISH FARMER”

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Intensive farming system is one of the best method for maximizing not only the production but also production through optimum use of land. Pisciculture regarded as one of the most progressive livelihood sector of India, which not only maximizes the sustainable utilization of natural resources but also holds the opportunities for large scale employment generation. Along with Pisciculture, integrated fish farming is also an emerging livelihood sector many sub-systems are involved and wastes of one system can be utilized as input to other system. A large variety of products are produced at one place to meet the needs of undernourished.

In intensive Pisciculture under RKVY many energetic entrepreneurs have developed and have their own success stories to express. In this view a success case of Mr. Santosh Kumar Routray is worth mentioning under the successful guidance of Department of Fisheries, Jagatsinghpur. Modus of operandi of resource specific standard technologies and economic profitability inspired local farmers to adopt these techniques.

CHALLENGES-

Mr. Santosh Routray is a young man in his thirties from Bhiranga village of Erasama block of Jagatsinghpur district. His main occupation was agriculture as like an ancient culture practices of our ancestors. He was in possession of 3.00 ha of agricultural land, but it not quite productive due to little salinity and moderate pH. In the mean while he has a backyard tank of 0.08 ha behind his house. Casually every year he releases fish seeds and giving interpreted feeding to the fishes and sold fishes every year. He noticed a remarkable profit in this farming in small investment.

Later he visited District fisheries Office, Jagatsinghpur to know more about Pisciculture activity in his agricultural land and suitability. Recommended by DFO he contacted with AFO, Erasama made a visit to his backyard pond and his agriculture field. AFO Erasama aware him about intensive pisciculture and departmental ongoing scheme, RKVY where he could get a Govt. assistance of 50%. Later he applied for development of pisciculture tanks under Fisheries Department through AFO, Erasama. Despite of land holding of 3.00 ha, bank was not willing giving loan to Sri Routray under their loan terms and conditions. Making visit to some more banks for getting agricultural loans but all his efforts ended in vain.

Despite of financial hurdles he set up his mind to develop the tanks by his own with the financial help of some villagers and close relatives as he is determined. Under the active guidance of District Fisheries officer and Asst. Fisheries Officer, Erasama he developed 1.10 ha of Pisciculture tanks having 3 nurseries of 0.60 ha and a grow-out tank of 0.50 ha.

INTERVENTIONS

Mr. Santosh Routray advised to take up intensive Pisciculture and better management practices by Department Officials. In the mean while he attended skill up-gradation training programmes at block level and district level. AFO, Erasama motivated him to attain 15 days training programme at FTI, Balugaon. During the course of training he visited Purusottampur farm along with other farmers and get to know various aspects of feeding, manuring, multiple stocking and multiple harvesting methods and BMP. Then he started culture by following these methods.

In 3 nos. of nurseries he stocked fry and raise them to advanced fingerling of 50gm above size in stunted manner. Besides selling the fingerlings to private fish farmers he also stocked in his grow out tank aside. Near to his tank he developed a store cum shed house, installed a aerator and diesel pump and also inlet and outlets in every pond for better water exchange and gained subsidy from RKVY.

In the embankment he also adopted seasonal vegetables and other horticulture activities through Horticulture department. Near to his pond he constructed a small poultry unit of 400 chick's capacity. Now he also involved in Goatery and Dairy by the help of Animal Husbandry dept. He also constructed an azolla pit for feeding purpose and a biogas unit for kitchen use purpose from dairy waste. Now he is interested in doing GIFT culture in small scale.

OUTCOME

Every year Mr Routray stocked fry and reared the fry to fingerlings / Advance Fingerlings and table size fish. Presently Mr Routray produced 1 ton of fingerlings, advance fingerlings from three nurseries tanks. He sold the fingerlings and advance fingerlings to private fish farmers and GP tanks. Table sized fishes from grow-out tank transported to local market of Erasama, Balikuda and Jagatsinghpur.

His income from Pisciculture is 5.00 lakhs / annum. Along with Pisciculture his income from seasonal farming of vegetables is 60,000/ annum, from goatery is 20,000/ annum, from poultry – 20,000/- and from dairy farming 70,000 /annum. His intensive culture is also created an employment source for the local people. Average marginal of

profit of Sri Routray excluding inputs expenditure including labour payment is 4.00 lakh/annum.

IMPACT-

The above RKVY project of Sri Routray created a massive impact on local people so also the small and marginal farmers of Erasama and Balikuda block. Agriculture department conducted two farm schools and exposure visit to this RKVY project of farmer's strength of 15nos. The farm school was conducted by AFO, Earsama regarding integrated fish farming along with other Agricultural and Horticultural activities. The trainees of the farm school realized the huge profit of intensive Pisciculture and Better Management Practices (BMP) followed by Sri Routray. Many of the Agricultural farmers of the locality getting motivated and also applied for Pisciculture tanks by Fisheries Department, Jagatsinghpur.

A young entrepreneur like Sri Santosh Routary create an ideal example among the young mass of Erasama block that a person can income a good ample of money and self dependence without engaging in Govt./ corporate sector.

"Intensive Pisciculture- Enrouting Farmers double income"



