

SUCCESS STORY IN FISH FARMING

Background

In a state where people claim fate is more important for success, the success story of a veteran farmer from Kusumgadia an interior village of Ganjam district is a shining example of how technologically and innovative cultivation methods can transform the agrarian economy and uplift the lives of millions of farmers.

Intervention

It had been an incredible journey for Pana Bisoi who in 1988 entered the world of fisheries and allied activities. For a year he travelled to various villages and hamlets nearby. He realized that in this modern and populated world, there are a lot of traditional ways to meet the demand for food which the farmers are relying upon to grow their crops. He got himself involved in fisheries through excavation of a fish pond of 3.2 Ac. Technical and financial support was provided by the Department and bank.



The man got himself fully involved fish culture. Gradually through horizontal expansion of the ponds he excavated two more tanks of 3.6 & 4.3 Ac area in the year 2016 & 2018 respectively with a nursery of 0.4Ac with financial support from Andhra bank. Recently he had got financial subsidy of Rs.3,57,000/- towards excavation and other assistances.

Looking for a way to increase his earnings, Pana started selling fish which added an extra income to his savings. He procured fish seed from OPDC fish seed hatchery, Bhanjanagar & private farm Duba, which after growing out to table sized in his ponds are sold to retailers and wholesalers. He is planning further to develop more tanks to boost fish production in the upcoming years.

Support and Encouragement

“This could not have been possible without the support, service, technical help and motivation from the State Fisheries Department,” says Pana. In the beginning he was not so sure about the tools and techniques for fish farming except some traditional ways. His interest in fish farming helped him to cope with the growing trends of fish farming. The local agriculture agency ATMA also helped with in various ways to set up his farming. He availed loans from the banks and strengthened his farming with modern technologies.

A Bigger Business

Besides fisheries and agriculture he had also been engaged in agriculture & horticulture till now. The farmer has grown papaya, coconut, banana along the dykes of the pond which in turn provide an extra source of income. He never compromises with the norms for quality and quantity of his farming throughout the year which is the key factor for his success in aquaculture.

As fresh fish is highly demanded in the markets of his locality, marketing is not a problem for him. He is planning further to develop more number of fish culture ponds as profit is comparatively more in fish culture than other agriculture practices.

Fish Culture Activities

The fish varieties are catla, rohu, mrigal, grass carp, silver carp, common carp, big head, pangus, punti etc. Feed is applied daily @ 2-3% of the fish biomass. De-oiled rice bran, oil cakes like GNOC, mustard oil cake, sesamum oil cake along with pellet feeds in bag method is practiced. Probiotics are also added to improve the fish gut fauna for better digestion. He is adopting the method of producing fermented products and applying to fishes for better growth.



His last year earnings from fish culture was 12.24 lakhs whereas the net profit was around 6 lakhs. On an average 4.51tonne of fish was harvested per Ha, which is quiet a better yield. Cultivation of agriculture and horticulture crops had given more return to the farmer. It is projected that, the farmer is benefited from the composite fish culture practice. It could be concluded that the man is now a fisheries entrepreneur and a community role model in fisheries.

A Community Role Model

In the recent years, Pana and his family have undergone a remarkable change, emerging as role models in their village and nearby areas. He has been instrumental in encouraging about a dozen more villagers to become fish farmers – there's more than enough demand in their local area.

Local agencies, KVKs, farmers and other allied departments organize demonstration programmes in his model fish farm. He had promoted the concept of using quality fish seeds, use of advanced fingerlings, use of probiotics and pelleted fish feed based on his experiences and the training that he had experienced by the Fisheries Department. He had undergone 3

days training at BBSR & 7 days training at Andhra. RKVY demonstration for intensive fish culture had been organized in his farm during the year 2016-17 by the DFO, Ganjam.