WORLD FISHERIES DAY - 2020

Best Individual Entrepreneur

awarded to

RS Polyplast, Delhi

GENESIS OF RS POLYPLAST COMPANY:

Figure 1: Shri. Vimal Mehta with officials in Delhi

RS Polymers, owned by Shri. Vimal Mehta, was established in 1988 and is one of the leading companies in executing Thermal and Hydro Power Projects and a manufacturer and supplier of Aquaculture Tanks, Fish Feed, Zincalume Tanks, Fish Farming Tanks, PVC Geomembrane & Steel Biofloc Tank and much more. His Son, Shri. Siddharth Mehta did his graduation in Banking and Finance in 2011 and pursued his Post Graduation in International Business with an aspiration to become an entrepreneur.

Realizing the growing potential in Fisheries & aquaculture sector, Shri. Siddharth decided to start a business in Aquaculture. However, he did not want to emulate the existing practices, but was rather keen to introduce new practices in Aquaculture. In orderto study the market and to explore the latest trends, he travelled all over the world and learnt new techniques related to the fisheries sector. After attending seminars in Thailand and Singapore on modern technology in fish and shrimp cultivation, he realizedthat the introduction of these techniques would help our farmers' significantlyand hence startedRS Polyplast, a subsidiary company of RS Polymers, in 2012 with an objective to increase production and reduce crop loss.

NEED FOR TECHNOLOGY

Besides bringing the latest technologies to India, there is also a need for separation of nursery (system in which seed is grown to fingerling) and grow out systems (system in which fingerlingsare reared to optimum size) in India as it fetchesgreater benefits. Segregation of the two systems helps in conserving both resources and time because of high

density stocking which is a common practice around the world except in India.Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) and Bioflocare proven to be the most effective technologies in farming high density stockings.

RAS & BIOFLOC

Bioflocis an innovative and cost-effective technology in which toxic substancessuch as Nitrate, Nitrite, Ammonia etc., are converted to useful products, i.e., proteinaceous feed. The defining features of Biofloc Technology (BFT) systems include high animal stocking densities and restricted water exchange which adequately address issues like non-availability of land and water scarcity. The microorganisms in BFT systems are responsible for detoxifying waste products; primarily nutrients excreted by cultured animals and further, they ensure availability of nutrients which are consumed by fish, thereby reducing feed cost.

Figure 2:Biofloc set up

Figure 3: Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS)

Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) is a technology where water is recycled and reused after mechanical and biological filtration with removal of waste. This method is used for high-density culture of various species of fish for effectively utilizing land and water. Instead of the traditional method of growing fish outdoors in open ponds and raceways, in this system, fish are typically reared in indoor/outdoor tanks in a controlled environment. The cost incurred for RAS is higher when compared to Bio-floc because of the filters utilized in the process.

These two techniques in aquaculturehave reaped benefits to many farmers till date. They have the potential to increase production by 5 times and further enable optimum utilization of resources like water, land and feed. Since the use of these technologies enables above the ground farming, spreading of diseases from the soil is eradicated. Farmers are generating revenues which are double theirinvestment in a span of one year by adopting these techniques.

STRATEGY & INITIATIVES ADOPTED

With a vision to empower the fish farmers to understand the need for technology and thereby improving the fishing practices; RS Polyplast has come up with structured business policies as a source of guidance. They have conducted multiple technical training and

demonstrations at farm at free of cost involving the beneficiaries and all stakeholders. Initiatives like development of modern technique inland farming in India, Research and Development for new innovations in aquaculture industry to benefit the farmers has been taken up. Additionally, RS Polyplast have curated a special employment generation initiative through aquaculture for impacting the widows, ex-servicemen, poor and marginal sections and for the young budding entrepreneurs.

'Engagement through Biofloc' programme which is in collaboration with Indian Air Force, RS Polyplast is supporting the ex-servicemen by engaging them in small scale fish farming through Biofloc system. Similarly, in convergence with Indian Army, the programme *'Employment through modern aquaculture'* is designed for supporting the widows and disabled to generate income. To support the young entrepreneurs in aquaculture, RS Polyplast in collaboration with BRAC is supporting the youths by creating opportunities to utilise their potential under the programme '*Young entrepreneur in Aquaculture*'.

SERVICES

Today, R.S Polyplast provides a one stop solution to source all the products required for Biofloc system, RAS, and in-house manufacturing plants. Further, farmers are provided with trainings on modern techniques which can be adopted to increase the production. Research and development activities are carried out extensively to develop risk mitigation strategies in case of exigencies and unfavourable conditions in fish farming.

A demonstration farm has been set up to conduct free technical training sessions for budding entrepreneurs. Additionally, RS Polyplast has an in-house cold storage unit and processing facility with a capacity of 40 Qtls/day. They also offer competitive prices to the farmers who are interested in selling their harvest. Over the past 6 years, 10,000 farmers have been provided handholding for setting up their own plants with latest technologies.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Turnover of Rs 9 Cr during FY2018-19

State-of-the-art Technology in Manufacturing Plant

Generated employment for 110 persons

Established a farm in one acre to conduct free training sessions

Handholding support provided to 10,000 fish farmers in setting up their plants

Figure 4: Hon'ble Minister Shri. Giriraj Singh with Shri. Siddharth Mehta