



## **Integrated Fish Farming – an economically viable fisheries activity**

**An inspiring story of World Fisheries Day – 2020 award winner under Category “Best Fish Farmer” from Tamil Nadu**

### **Background**

Shri Chinnasamy, a 68 year old fish farmer hails from Mambati village, Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu. There are six members in his family who are dependent on him. Earlier his occupation was mainly agriculture, which earned him an annual income of Rs. 60,000/-. As he was finding it difficult to manage his family expenditure with the little income he was making from agriculture, he turned a pond which was dug in his farm 10 years back under MGNREGS into fish farm pond. He then bought 3000 fingerlings from Anipati Government Fish Farm, Dindigul by investing Rs. 2700/- and stocked in his pond, cultured with utmost care and achieved a survival rate of 70%. By selling his first harvest in the local market of Natham, he earned an income of Rs.1.90Lakhs. He did this out of his own interest and by learning from others.



### **Business Expansion:**

Shri Chinnasamy, motivated by the returns on his first investment, decided to upgrade his skills and take up fish farming as his primary source of livelihood. He stepped forward and approached the Seed Rearing Centre at Anipati. He participated in a training program organised by the Fisheries Department on “Fresh Water Fish Farming” in 2017. Inspired from prospects, he converted one acre land from his two acres into 5 farm ponds (20 cents area per Pond). He started rearing Indian Major Carp and Common Carp in these ponds.

### **Funds and Schemes availed:**



Fish rearing has been Chinnasamy’s major occupation since 2017. He availed 40% subsidy assistance under CSS Blue Revolution scheme from Fisheries department in 2018 for expansion of his fish rearing and production activity.

### Production Practices:

All ponds are treated and water is filled up to 1.5 m. Fish seed of one inch size is released into the ponds and are fed on a regular basis. Majorly, three species of freshwater fish are grown viz., Catla, Rohu and Mrigal in the ponds. Once in seven months when the fish grows to 500 gms to 750 gms, the produce is harvested and sold in the local market. He earned about Rs. 3.75 Lakhs against an expenditure of 1.75 Lakhs per harvest which is more than twice to his investment.



In addition to rearing IMC and Common Carp, he was also doing Polyculture. Through this integrated model, he is earning about Rs.1.5 Lakhs from Agriculture produce, Rs. 50,000/- from cattle rearing and Rs. 2 Lakhs from fish culture every year. His annual net income has subsequently increased to Rs. 4 Lakh per harvest which is twice his investment. His family members help him in fish culture.

His income increased 5.6 times when compared to his earnings prior to fish farming. This sets a model for many new entrants in the field of aquaculture.

*As per the Fisheries Department, Govt. of Tamilnadu, Shri Chinnasamy has been following the right procedures in fish culture and doing Cattle cum fish integration for increasing plankton productivity of farm ponds.*

### Vision of the famer:

Shri Chinnasamy wants to establish **live fish disposal kiosk** and **Mobile units** for selling quality farm reared fish at a better market price.

### Rewards & Recognitions:

As an honour to the contributions of Shri Chinnasamy to the aquaculture sector, he was felicitated with “**The Best Fish Farmer**” award by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) in 2020 on the World Fisheries Day. An article was also published on his inspiring journey in a popular weekly Tamil magazine “**Pasumaivikatan**” (dated 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019).