



WORLD FISHERIES DAY – 2020 AWARDS

Best Inland District in India – Kalahandi District, Odisha

State of Odisha is bestowed with inland, brackish water and marine water resources that makes fisheries as a prominent activity in the State. Marine and inland fisheries sectors offer a vast scope for development and investment in a number of projects in the State. In addition to various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Centrally Plan Schemes (CPS), the State government has initiated numerous activities for the welfare of fishermen and increasing fish production in the State through State Fisheries Department, Odisha.



Kalahandi district in Odisha received the “Best Performing Inland District in Fisheries Sector” Award

At district level, District Fisheries Offices are the execution channels for implementing fisheries based Schemes/activities of the Department. District Fisheries Officers and the field staff are responsible for taking up various fisheries & aquaculture development activities and for overall development & welfare of the fishers in their district. This case study focuses on the achievements of Kalahandi district in fisheries Sector.

Strategies adopted by the district for enhanced production:

District Fisheries, Kalahandi had initiated integrated pisciculture along with the agriculture and other allied activities in livestock sector for doubling the farmers’ income in the district. The department focused on both horizontal and vertical expansion of aquaculture, increasing fish production in underutilized free water areas like Gram Panchayat (GP) tanks, Minor Irrigation Projects and reservoirs.

As per the state reservoir policy (2013), larger water bodies above 40 hectares were leased out to Primary Fishermen Cooperative Societies (PFCS) involving the local fishermen of the

vicinity and Gram Panchayat (GP) tanks were leased out to Women Self Help groups (WSHGs) on long term basis so as to boost the village economy. Through these efforts, the administration ensured nutritional security among the rural poor and improved the land holding capacity of rural women.

In order to make the district self-sufficient in inland fish production and double the farmers' income, Govt of Odisha has launched various flagship programmes. Among these three main initiatives are:

1. Increasing the water area for aquaculture by launching the state plan scheme, ***Matsya Pokhari Yojana (MPY)*** where a farmer can excavate a new tank in his/her own land with the provision of 40-50% subsidy assistance.
2. Leasing at least one GP tank to women SHGs on long term lease basis (3 to 5 years) for practising pisciculture and adopting scientific technologies with a provision of 60% input subsidy assistance.
3. Availability of stock of quality fingerlings in reservoirs by installation of pen nurseries.

Implementation of central and state sponsored schemes in Kalahandi:

The department had constructed ponds in Kalahandi under central and state government schemes like Blue Revolution, RKVY and *Matshya Pokhari Yojana* (MPY). Further, demonstrations were organised on intensive pisciculture in the blocks of Odisha under RKVY, Carp Mola Poly culture, Carp intensification, GIFT Tilapia farming etc., under one of the state sponsored schemes. Additionally, it also gave input assistance to women SHGs for pisciculture in GP tanks under RKVY and state sponsored schemes. Under the state sponsored scheme MPY, awareness programs were organised on advance fingerlings culture and pen culture in reservoirs.

Interventions for enhanced production:

In the last three years, the department had introduced several interventions for the enhancement of fish seed production. In Kalahandi, one freshwater fish seed hatchery was established, through which 4,500 lakh spawn were produced and constructed a fish seed farm, through which 3 lakh spawn and 9.20 lakh fish fry were produced.

Other interventions undertaken for the enhancement of fish production were 1,703 lakhs fish seed stocking, construction of fish tanks and rearing farms in 186 hectares, establishing pen culture in 1.53 hectares and introducing pisciculture in GP tanks.

By optimally utilising the total water spread area of 14,361 hectares available in the district, it has produced 75 lakh tonnes of table fish and sold 74 lakh tonnes in the last three years.

Welfare activities:



In the last three years, for the welfare of the fishermen community, the fisheries department has provided insurance assistance to 7,248 fishermen under PMSBY, Savings cum relief fund has been provided to 100 fishermen, 1,127 Kisan Credit Card applications have been processed and revolving fund has been provided to fisherwomen cooperatives. It

has also developed 68 tanks under MGNREGS having 13.6-hectare water area that has benefitted 68 men and women farmers.

Adoption of new technologies:

In order to increase fish production, the department of fisheries has organised demonstrations on pisciculture under RKVY in potential blocks of Odisha. About 11 farmers adopted pisciculture after attending the demonstrations. Demonstrations also helped in introducing new technology such as GIFT Tilapia culture for introducing new species in a semi-intensive way. After the demonstration, 13 farmers adopted the technology. Post introduction of Biofloc tanks, the department generated employment for the youth and farmers of many communities who could grow fish in small parcels of land. Work orders were issued to three farmers for installation of Biofloc tanks. About 25 farmers were given work orders for installation of the machinery on their farm locations that resulted in higher fish yields from ponds.

Institution and capacity building programmes:

The department has under taken several programs as given below:

- Organising 913 fishermen & 324 fisherwomen into fisheries cooperative societies.
- 4 Fishermen Cooperative Societies & Fisherwomen Cooperative Societies were audited until 2019-20.
- 90 farmers were trained at Fisheries Training Institute, Balugaon.
- 270 women SHGs were trained by the district fisheries team.
- 11 trainings were organised on Intensive Aquaculture under RKVY at the work site.
- 960 fishermen along with fisherwomen, project staff, line department staff, and elected representatives have undergone capacity building trainings in the last four years.

Impact of the new schemes and technologies:

Through the intervention of new technologies and implementation of various state and central government schemes, the district has been able to increase usage of water spread area for fish culture & fish production by 1.08%. Employment has surged by 10% for the unemployed youth from fisheries. About 28% increase has been reported in participation of fisherwomen in income generation activities.

Best fisheries practices in the district:

- Promotion of aquaculture using scientific methods in untapped GP tanks has gained popularity in the district, tagging women SHGs on long term lease.
- Average productivity in GP tanks has been increased to 2 tonnes per hectare.
- During the last three years, around 480 hectares of GP tanks were leased out to about 350 women SHGs which is the highest among all the districts of the state.
- Implementation of the schemes has been simplified making them accessible for the farmers. Various awareness programs were conducted by the field level functionaries (AFO/SFTA/JFTA) for progressive farmers and Panchayati Raj functionaries on the procedures and documents required to avail the scheme benefits. The admissible subsidy is extended to the farmers in DBT mode maintaining transparency.
- Convergence of allied activities like poultry, duckery and raising horticultural crops in ponds added to the farmers' income. Other departments such as agriculture and horticulture are also providing subsidy assistance and organising awareness camps on various government schemes at block/GP level in coordination with ATMA / ITDA / MISSION SHAKTI and others for creating awareness.
- District level fair, "Ghumra Utsav" that is conducted annually was used as a platform by the department to create awareness among fish farmers for active participation.
- "Mega Legal Services Camp" was organised with the aim of justice for all.
- Cell for "Mo Sarkar" under 5T model of governance set up with an aim to make the governance people-centric by the state government, has given prompt and timely services to the farmers.
- Block level and district level trainings, exhibitions, and exposure visits were conducted in the district to create awareness among fish farmers by district officers at regular intervals.
- Unemployed youth were provided trainings at Fisheries Training Institute (Balugaon) and various other training institutions.
