



WORLD FISHERIES DAY – 2020 AWARDS

Best Hilly & North Eastern District- Nagaon, Assam

ABOUT NAGAON DISTRICT:

Nagaon District is located in the heart of Assam State and is at the centre of the Northeast India. It is one of the most important districts in the State of Assam. Fisheries and aquaculture is one of major livelihood option after agriculture for the people of Nagaon.

The district has abundant water resources in the form of ponds, tanks, beels, derelict water bodies and forest fisheries. Nagaon district ranked first in fish production and third in seed production in the State during 2017-18.

Total fish production in Nagaon district during 2019-20 was 35,262.20 MTs. The production was sufficient to fulfil the district requirement and also to supply to the neighbouring States viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Meghalaya. The average annual growth rate of fish production was 7.43% from 2018 to 2020 FYs.



STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY THE DISTRICT FOR ENHANCING FISH PRODUCTION:

The administration of Nagaon district has made diverse plans for sustainable development of the fisheries sector.



The District Fisheries Officer and team of Nagaon have identified more than 150 unregistered Hatcheries that were functional and got them registered. New hatcheries were constructed by the private entrepreneurs and infrastructure was established for fish seed rearing. The department had also submitted a proposal for a fish seed multiplication centre at the Government farm and introduced fish seed rearing in cage culture.

The Fisheries department of Nagaon District has successfully brought more water spread area under advanced fish culture through implementing various fisheries schemes viz., Blue Revolution scheme, State owned priority scheme and NABARD assisted RIDF scheme. Under these schemes, construction of new ponds and horizontal expansion of water spread area were on priority. The department emphasized on community and culture-based fisheries development initiatives in ponds and beels through World Bank assisted APART project. The project targeted an annual yield of 5,000 kg/ha/year from ponds and more than 1,500 kg/ha/year from beels and supplied fish seed and feed to the farmers of the newly constructed ponds and tanks under the Chief Minister Samagrya Grammya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY) scheme. Further, the Department introduced cage aquaculture in wetland namely *Rupahi Beel*, *Barghuli Beel* and *Wargeneden Beel*.

The department had also developed strategies for post-harvest management. During COVID-19 pandemic crisis, more than 50 fish farmers were given permission for fish seed culture and feed transportation through special licenses issued by the DFDO, Nagaon. Awareness programmes were organized to the fishers & fish farmerson government initiatives in fisheries sector and provided assistance towards supply of fish through transport vehicles.

The government has achieved record breaking revenue collection through hatchery registration, issuance of license and others amounting to more than Rs. 2.0 lakh

IMPLEMENTATION OF CENTRAL AND STATE SPONSORED SCHEMES IN NAGAON

District Fisheries of Nagaon had constructed 45 community tanks, each ranging between 1.0 to 5.0 hectares and individual fish ponds for 654 farmers in 0.14 hectares under NABARD & RIDF schemes, cage culture in Beels under the State sponsored scheme and Re-circulatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS) unit under Blue Revolution scheme. Also, established 2 fish feed mills, 1 Fish kiosk and 17 Ornamental fish units for fish farmers in Nagaon district. Organized Capacity building and awareness generation programmes under State sponsored schemes.



INTERVENTIONS FOR ADVANCED PRODUCTION:

In the past 3 years, for increasing the fish seed production, the department had established fresh water fish seed hatchery having current production capacity of 48,181 million spawn, 16,863 million fry and 9,150 million fingerlings.

In order to increase the fish production in the district, stocked 15,80,720 number fish seed, constructed fish tanks and rearing farms in 174.5 hectares, constructed 3 Cage culture units, APART Poly culture in 26 hectares and APART paddy-cum-fish culture in 8 hectares.

In the district, the total water spread area is 55,754.34 hectares from which 94,413.19 MTs of table fish was produced in the last 3 years.

WELFARE ACTIVITIES:

The fisheries department of Nagaon has provided insurance assistance to 92,123 fishermen under PMSBY. The department had processed 279 Kisan Credit Card (KCC) applications.

ADOPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES:

The District Fisheries has installed 50 Biofloc units and one RAS under Blue Revolution scheme. Additionally, 3 units of Cage culture were installed under CMSGUY.

INSTITUTION AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES:

The department had organised various programmes as listed below:

- Organised 3,55,521 fishermen & 1,19,409 fisherwomen into cooperative societies.
- 24 Fishermen Cooperative Societies & Fisherwomen Cooperative Societies were audited up to 2019-20 FY.

- 30 awareness programmes and exposure visits were conducted in the last 4 years and 1,120 fishermen & fisherwomen, project staff, staff of line departments, elected representatives have participated in these capacity building programmes.
- On the occasion of the World Fisheries Day held in Nov 2019, Fisheries Development Officer, Nagaon, arranged a consultative workshop in collaboration with Innovative Change Collaborative Service Pvt Ltd Delhi (ICCO) on “Innovative Skill Training and extension of technology” for rural progressive fish farmers of Nagaon district of Assam. More than 50 progressive fish farmers participated in this workshop and Senior Faculty of college of Fisheries, Raha & Assam Agriculture University have facilitated in which the progressive fish farmers shared their experiences of practicing cage culture, bio-floc, RAS, Aquaponics etc.
- Organised skill development training on poly culture and paddy culture for the beneficiary farmers under the World Bank funded project, APART in collaboration with KVK, Nagaon in June, 2019.



IMPACT OF THE NEW SCHEMES AND TECHNOLOGIES:



Through introduction of new technologies and implementation of various State and central government schemes, the district has experienced 8% increase in water spread area for fish culture & fish production. The state has also provided 7.8% increase in employment of unemployed youth in fisheries sector. Further, 4.6% increase in participation of fisherwomen in fisheries-based income generation activities was reported.

BEST FISHERIES PRACTICES IN THE DISTRICT:

- Intensive fish culture in ponds and tanks by the progressive fish farmers, especially through Multiple Stocking-Multiple harvesting concept.
- Quality fish seed production through fish seed hatchery by progressive fish farmers.
- Cage culture by the Beel users.
- Use of RAS by individual fish farmers.

SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS & RECOGNITIONS:

- Nagaon is the highest fish seed and table fish supplier to other districts of Assam and North East States.
- Exclusive practices of Multiple stocking-Multiple Harvesting were adopted.
- The District was awarded with “Best District among all hilly and north-eastern districts” in the fisheries sector.
