



Uttar Pradesh Fisheries Department bags “Best Performing State in inland fisheries sector” Award on the ‘World Fisheries Day-2020’

Department of Fisheries, Uttar Pradesh was established with the objective of developing the fisheries sector in a planned manner. After the abolition of the Zamindari System in the 1st five-year plan, some fishponds were transferred to the fisheries department. Various initiatives taken up by the department in recent years for aquaculture development under the CSS-Blue Revolution, have led to 30 percent increase in water spread area for fish culture.



The state has enormous inland saline and alkaline area of 1.36 lakh ha, spread out in different districts of Uttar Pradesh. On a trial basis, 28 hectares of inland saline area was utilized for shrimp and brackish water fish culture in Agra, Mathura and Hathras districts of Uttar Pradesh. This has not only given encouraging results but has also set a good example for showcasing species diversification in fish culture.

Fisheries development works gained momentum after the establishment of Fish farmers’ development agencies in the Sixth Five Year Plan. In order to meet the growing demand for fish seed in the state, 9 large size hatcheries were set up by Uttar Pradesh Fisheries Development Corporation (FDC). In the 7th Five Year Plan, fisheries development agencies were established in all the districts of the state and through agencies, fishers were provided with loans and government grants, short term trainings, free technical information for improvement of ponds/ construction of new ponds along with first year input cost. Under the Scheme "Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries" launched by the Government of India in the year 2016-17, various centrally sponsored / centrally funded schemes were taken up by the state for the fisheries development.

Measures for development of fisheries sector in the state:

The state has amended Uttar Pradesh Fisheries (Development and, Control) Rules, 1954 for the establishment of Uttar Pradesh Fishermen Welfare Fund. With the main objective to play a vital role in the upliftment of poor fishers and sector development, the state has developed a ten year long term policy for the fisheries management activities in the reservoir through culture based capture fisheries promotion of cage culture and integrated development of reservoirs. It has also developed



a policy for sustainable fishing in rivers for the conservation of natural fauna, and assured employment opportunities for the fishers. The department has taken strict measures for prevention, breeding and culture of *Clarias Gariepinus* (African Cat Fish), a banned species. The state is also

formulating policy for hatchery accreditation, seed certification, fish feed quality control, fish food and fish products quality certifications.

Implementation of central and state sponsored schemes:

The department has been implementing various central and state sponsored schemes for increasing the production through construction of nurseries. It has also introduced mobile fish parlours, developed waterlogged areas and strengthened fish seed farms for fish seed production.

Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the department has renovated ponds which have generated employment for the local youth. For optimally increasing the production in 30.614 Ha ponds across 8 districts of Uttar Pradesh, the department has provisioned for doubling the inputs.



The state has created infrastructure and has distributed assets under various schemes to produce fish and support fish farmers. In the last 3 years, 6 auto rickshaws with ice boxes, 76 bicycles with ice boxes and 508 motor cycles with ice boxes have been distributed. The department has also created 18 solar power support systems, 51 small feed mills and 1 large feed mill for the benefit of fish farmers.

Interventions for enhanced production:

The fisheries department of Uttar Pradesh has made several interventions for enhancing fish seed production in the last 3 years. It has established 49 freshwater fish seed hatcheries, through which 15,043 lakh spawn, 4,900 lakh fry and 98 lakh fingerlings were produced. It has also constructed 333 fish seed rearing units, through which it has produced 7,355 lakh fry and 662 lakh fingerlings. Using 1755 captive fish seed rearing ponds in 198.36 hectares, the department has produced 357 lakh fingerlings. It has constructed 262 ponds under Khet Talab Yojana in the Bundelkhand region, through which 17.81 lakh fingerlings were produced. It has stocked 1546 lakh fish seed in the reservoirs, constructed 2001 fish tanks and rearing farms, established 58 Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) and 260 cage culture units. 19.9 lakh tonnes of fish production has been achieved using 5.47 lakh hectares of water spread area across the State.



Welfare activities:

UP Fisheries Department has developed policies for fund transfer and ensured time bound transfer of fund & subsidies directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts. To enhance the efficiency of the subsidy programs, the department has effectively implemented Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Aadhar authentication and geo-tagging. It has also provided insurance assistance to 1.34 lakh

fishermen under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and processed 4,786 Kisan Credit Card (KCC) applications.

Adoption of new technologies:

To conserve water and provide a modular system for intensive fish farming, the Department of Fisheries has introduced RAS technology in the State, which has benefitted 58 fish farmers so far.

Institution and Capacity building programmes:

The department has organized the following:

- ✚ 58,144 fishermen into fishermen cooperative societies and 1,128 fisherwomen into fisherwomen cooperative societies.
- ✚ 1,128 fishermen and fisherwomen cooperative societies have been audited until 2019-20.
- ✚ 1,200 workshops have been organised in 2017 with scientists, policy makers, technocrats and entrepreneurs from all over the country for laying out plans to implement central schemes and vision plan for the state.

Impact of the new schemes and technologies:

State could achieve 30% increase in water spread area for fish culture and fish production through the interventions using new technologies and the implementation of various state and central government schemes. The fisheries sector has contributed 0.38% to the state GDP and generated employment for the youth.



Best fisheries practices in the district:

- District Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh has innovated a low-cost RAS that has been adopted by the Government of India under Blue Revolution Scheme. Farmers and entrepreneurs within the State and across the nation have shown tremendous interest in the new technology. Aquapreneurs from different parts of the country regularly visit Barabanki to learn about the RAS technology. Department regularly organises training programs, workshops, seminars, and demonstrations to popularise the RAS system. Presently, more than 58 RAS units are functional in the State and more installations are being planned in the coming years. With the successful adoption of RAS by the entrepreneurs in the state, many farmers are showing interest towards other intensive farming techniques like biofloc which have been started by many in the state without any government assistance. This shows that the state is heading towards the inland fish production in the country.
- The state has also developed Aadhaar authenticated portals for beneficiaries' registration, online invitation of applications, transfer of funds/subsidies through DBT, monthly progress report compilation and implementation of CSS and RKVY schemes.
- State has plans to review and effectively implement the Kisan credit card scheme, launch of mobile app for farmer registration under Saving Cum Relief Fund scheme and Fishermen Accidental Insurance scheme.