



Agriculture to Pisciculture – An inspiring story of Shri. Surender

Award winner of “Best Inland Fish Farmer” from Haryana on World Fisheries Day-2020

Shri. Surender is a B.A. Graduate who hails from Jhajjar district of Haryana. He was an agriculture farmer by occupation, which earned him an annual income of Rs. 1.00 lakh to 1.50 lakh. During his leisure time, he used to visit his friend Devender’s farm, who was a fish farmer and both of them used to attend meetings organised by Rohtak Fisheries Department.

Motivation:

From his frequent visits to fish farms and participation in meetings, Shri. Surender understood the dynamics of fish business and realised that the earnings from fish culture are way higher than what a farmer earns from agriculture and decided to venture into fish farming. This convinced him to switch from agriculture to pisciculture as his occupation 10 years ago.



Production Practices:



Shri. Surender started fish culture along with his friend Devender. He took many ponds from his village Panchayat in auction and started rearing fish in those ponds. To ensure quality, he frequently got the soil and water tested at a laboratory which was 10 kms away from Rohtak. As these were the village ponds which he took in auction, the cattle from village had no restriction for free entry into the ponds. On a daily basis, around 1,500 cattle entered the ponds and this helped in improving the water quality.

Additionally, he bought fingerlings from other districts and stocked them in the ponds. He followed good farming practices such as conditioning the fish seed and fingerlings well before stocking, maintaining the ratio of each species in the ponds to avoid overcrowding, doing trial netting regularly for checking the disease, shifting fishes from one pond to another, etc. He gave good quality feed/pelleted feed to the fish. Minerals and lime was also administered for achieving good growth rate. He also used aeration and probiotics in fish ponds and harvested the produce only when the fish weighed approximately 1 kg each. He cultured *Indian Major Carp (IMC)*, *Pangasius*, *Catla*, *Rohu*, *Mrigal* and *Common Carp* in his fish ponds.



When it comes to selling his produce, he didn't restrict himself only to his village but also expanded his supply to Delhi. His annual turnover is now close to Rs. 20 lakhs. He has employed 70 people across 35 group farm ponds that are spread across different villages.

Knowledge gaining and sharing:

Shri. Surender is an autodidact and had learnt a lot from his frequent visits to the neighbouring ponds in his village. He also actively participated in various seminars and awareness programmes organised by District Fisheries Officer, Jhajjar district and trainings given by the fish feed companies on different occasions.



Students from various universities, farmers from his own & surrounding villages frequently visit his farm ponds to learn the best aquaculture practices adopted by Shri. Surender.

Infrastructure established:

Shri. Surender established one *thana* pond in Sisar village of Rohtak District in 2017 in 1.80 hectare land that has a production capacity of 31 tonnes. He had invested Rs. 10.53 Lakhs on annual lease amount for culturing four ponds.

Shri. Surender envisions setting up more ponds in private land on long term lease near a canal. He wants to motivate more youth take up fish farming instead of looking for a job.
