



## SUCCESS STORY



### Enhancing income security through fish farming in ponds

#### Background:

Mr. Lalit Sharma is a resident of Baddi village located in Solan district, Himachal Pradesh. After completing his post-graduation, he was working in a private firm and leading his life. While leading a routine life, he wanted to undertake something offbeat and he discovered his interest towards fisheries and aquaculture. To know more about the sector, he contacted Nalagarh Fisheries office to know more about the feasibility of the various projects, technical guidance and gradually started exploring possibilities on how to enhance his earnings and led a better life with the changing world and its needs.



Picture 1: Mr. Lalit Sharma

#### Constructed Ponds to improve income:

To gain more knowledge on various aquaculture practices and available Government schemes, Mr. Sharma approached the Fisheries Office at Nalagarh. Under the guidance and support of Fisheries Department officials, he applied for the activity "Construction of New Pond" under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) during the FY 2020-21. Subsequently, he took land on lease in Garjewal village near Nalagarh and constructed 3 ponds spread over 0.7 ha water area. Under PMMSY, he received the financial assistance of Rs. 2.35 lakhs for pond construction and Rs. 1.12 lakhs as input cost for the first year with the total project cost of Rs. 5.88 lakhs. The balance required amount he met out of his own savings.

Additionally, he was also exposed to various training and capacity building programmes which were being organized by the Department regarding fish culture practices and on best management practices for better and improved production. This has resulted in good production in the first year itself.



Picture 2: Ponds constructed under PMMSY



### Harvest and Earnings:

Considerable project support and technical assistance provided by the State Fisheries Department were instrumental in achieving the positive outcomes as detailed below.

Year	Business Activity (Production/ Service)	Production Related		Total Expenditure (Rs.in Lakhs)	Returns (Rs. in Lakhs)	Net profit (Rs.in Lakhs)
		Annual Producti on in Tonnes	Annual Quantity marketed in Tonnes			
2020-21	Production	6.50	5.00	2.60	5.00	2.40

### Impact:

Fish farming was not a full-time occupation or the sole income source of Mr. Sharma but now as a result of undertaking aquaculture he has improved his socio-economic status. Fish farming brought profits, generated cash and significantly improved his household income. He has also empowered three more people by providing them opportunity in income generation as a result of this initiative.

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