



SUCCESS STORY



Building livelihood resilience of fisherfolk communities in Tripura

Background:

Shri. Purna Jamatia hails from the village Burima para located in Jampuijala sub-division of Sepahijala district in Tripura. The place is known for its fertile land with good supply of water for undertaking agriculture and allied activities. Jampuijala sub-division is home to a number of small fish farmers who have attended various training programmes conducted by the Department of Fisheries, Tripura.



Picture 1: Shri. Purna Jamatia

Department of Fisheries, Tripura provides fisheries extension services to the fish farmers in the State in order to disseminate fish farming techniques to increase the State fish production and expand aquaculture program. Shri. Purna Jamatia is one such farmer who have attended the training programme conducted by the Department and decided to take up fish farming as his livelihood. Prior taking up fisheries as his livelihood, he was unemployed and could manage his family needs with lot of difficulty.

Turning Challenges to Opportunities:

Tripura Fisheries Department organized Jampuijala sub-divisional level training program under its fisheries extension services as part of aquaculture expansion program among farmers & unemployed youth. In 2005, Mr. Jamatia attended one such training session and got inclined to fish farming as his livelihood. After undergoing training from the Dept. of Fisheries and with constant support, he expanded his area under aquaculture from 0.80 Ha to 3.84 ha in the last 15 years.



Picture 2: Fish produced from Mr. Jamatia's fish farm

He has made remarkable progress over the years in fish production and took the initiative to bring in diversification in farm activities by setting up of breeding unit for locally important indigenous fish species in North Eastern region. During the FY 2021-22, Mr. Jamatia has received financial assistance from NFDB of Rs. 4.20 lakhs of the total project cost of Rs. 10 lakhs under activity, "Establishment of breeding unit for locally important indigenous fish species in North Eastern region". Adding his own contribution over and above the financial assistance received he has constructed a well-equipped catfish hatchery in his farm. The hatchery will be operational from April 2022 onwards and it



has a production capacity of 5 lakh pabda seed in the first year itself. Currently, 75kg of Pabda brood fish is available for breeding in the ensuing season.



Picture 3: NFDDB funded breeding unit established for locally important indigenous fish species in NE region

Mr. Jamatia also practices Pig cum fish culture in one of the ponds in his farm. At present, there are 10 pigs in his farm and adoption of this integrated fish farming has resulted not only in economic efficacy but also ecological efficacy.

Reaping the benefits:

With constant technical guidance from the Dept. of Fisheries, Tripura and financial assistance under various schemes, Mr. Jamatia could continue practicing fish farming as his primary livelihood. His growth in fisheries over the years is provided in the below table:

Year	Business Activity (Production/ Service)	Production Related		Returns (Rs. in Lakhs)	Net profit (Rs. in Lakhs)
		Annual Production (in Tonnes)	Annual Quantity marketed (in Tonnes)		
2005	Production	2.00	1.94	3.00	2.00
2006	Production	7.50	7.40	11.25	1.75
2015	Production	12.00	11.9	23.80	5.30
2020	Production	12.2	12.0	24.00	16.00
2021	Production	12.4	12.25	24.50	14.50

Life and Livelihoods:

With proper guidance and support from the Dept. of Fisheries, Tripura, Mr. Jamatia could successfully introduce scientific management in his farm and thereby resulting in remarkable increase in fish production. He has been able to take fish farming on commercial level from sustenance level and adopted integrated fish farming with pig farming. This has immensely contributed to the economic empowerment of Mr. Jamatia and his family. He has also generated employment for three extra hands.
