



WORLD FISHERIES DAY 2021 AWARDS



Best Hilly & North Eastern District – Bongaigaon, Assam

DISTRICT PROFILE:

Bongaigaon district is an administrative district in the north-eastern state of Assam. The geographical area of the district is 1093 Sq. Km (Source: Census 2011). The name 'Bongaigaon' is derived from the words 'bon' meaning wild and 'gai' meaning cow. In the distant past, wild cows were often a menace to villagers in this area due to which the district got its name.

The district has 3 sub-divisions namely; Bongaigaon (Sadar), North Salmara (C) and Manikpur (C). The district has abundant water resources in the form of ponds and tanks (2,309 Ha), Beels (2,619 Ha), Swamp/Low lying area (3,332.4 Ha) and 8 rivers spreading over 255 Kms.



Picture 1: Bongaigaon district map

The total fish production in Bongaigaon district during FY 2020-21 was 9,450 MT and fish seed production was 12 lakh fingerlings. 11,064 fishermen are inhabitants of this district. Major species cultured in Bongaigaon district are IMC, Exotic Carp, Minor Carp, Pangasius and Air breathing fishes.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CENTRAL AND STATE SPONSORED SCHEMES

Since FY 2018-19, the Fisheries Department has facilitated establishment of 4 freshwater fish hatcheries and construction of 278 new fish ponds in the private sector with the financial assistance from various Central Government schemes.

Under Blue Revolution Scheme 28 fingerling rearing units (4 ha area) in the private sector and



Picture 2: Eco-hatchery constructed under Blue Revolution Scheme

10 houses for fishermen have been constructed. Additionally, the Department has also constructed 2 big hygienic Fish Markets, one under State Owned Priority Development Scheme (SOPD) and the other under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). Also, 228 individual farm ponds (23 Hectare) and 23 community tanks (24 Hectare) were constructed under RIDF. Under RKVY and RKVY-RAFTAR schemes, 8 derelict water bodies were converted into community tanks (10 Hectares). 3 cage culture units have been setup under CMSGUY.



Under PMMSY Scheme, the District Fisheries office has facilitated establishment of 1 large RAS unit, 1 fish kiosk, 1 mini fish feed mill, 25 Biofloc ponds. The fisheries department also distributed 1 refrigerated vehicle, three wheelers with Ice-box to 5 beneficiaries, motorcycle with ice-box to 3 beneficiaries and bicycle with ice-box to 14 beneficiaries. In addition to these, a pen in 2 hectares area has been constructed in the wetlands to undertake fish seed rearing.



Picture 3: Housing for fishers constructed under Blue Revolution scheme



Picture 4: Hygienic Fish Market constructed under SOPD

INNOVATIVE PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT:

1. Project Samridhi

Project Samridhi is aimed at inclusive community empowerment through co- management of Aquaculture led interventions. It is sponsored by ICAR-GOI with an estimated project cost of Rs. 43.15 lakhs under SCSP Scheme and implemented jointly by the Bongaigaon District Administration; ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow; Aquaculture & Biodiversity Centre, Department of Zoology, Guwahati University.

Under this project some critical problems like backwardness, unemployment, lack of skills, poverty alleviation etc. are addressed through production and trade of ornamental fishes. One old hall in a park situated in the heart of Bongaigaon town has been renovated and an Aquarium House consisting of 62 glass tanks to house and rear indigenous & exotic ornamental fish has been established. 20 women SHG beneficiaries have been trained on aquarium maintenance and ornamental fish breeding. The entire aquarium will be handed over to the selected 20 beneficiaries for its maintenance and upkeep.



Picture 5: Project Samridhi – Aquarium House

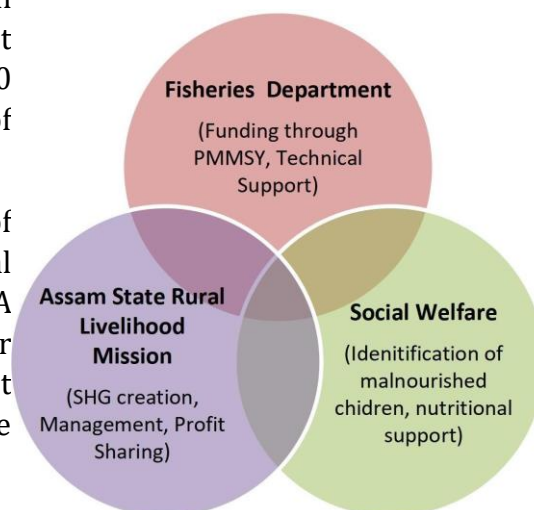


Picture 6: High-end aquarium house with 62 aquariums created under Project Samridhi

2. Project Sampoorna:

To address the challenge of malnutrition, Bongaigaon district administration started a community led initiative named, “Project Sampoorna” in the month of September, 2020. Under this project nutritious food will be distributed to 2,500 malnourished children through Anganwadi Centers of the district.

The project is implemented through convergence of various departments like Fisheries Department, Social Welfare and Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission. A total expenditure of Rs. 123.05 lakhs is envisaged under the central sector component of PMMSY and the Project is proposed to be implemented in 2 phases with the following components:



- i. Distribution of 100 Biofloc tanks to 25 SHGs: Members of SHGs having malnourished children are given preference for establishment of Biofloc tanks.
- ii. Polyculture of Mola (*Amblypharyngodon mola*) - a nutrient dense fish and other Small Indigenous Species (SIS) with carps. Additional production of Mola and SIS will help in fulfilling the goal of achieving nutritional security of malnourished children.
- iii. Solar Fish Dryer with Electrical Backup: 2 units of solar dryers will be distributed to SHGs for drying the fish. The dried fish is powdered and mixed with vitamin mixture and it will be given as dietary supplement to the children through Anganwadi Centers of the district.

iv. Distribution of 3-wheeler mobile vans with ice boxes



Picture 7: PMMSY funded Biofloc units constructed under Project Sampoorna

INSTITUTION AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

The District Fisheries Office, Bongaigaon in collaboration with ICAR-Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana has conducted a 3-day Training program on Entrepreneurship Development on Fish Drying and Pickle Making Techniques under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) during the month of February 2021. 100 SC beneficiaries were trained on fish processing and value addition.



Picture 8: Training conducted in collaboration with ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana on Fish Drying and Pickle making techniques

IMPACT OF NEW SCHEMES & TECHNOLOGIES

Through introduction of new technologies and implementation of various State and Central Government schemes, an additional 73.8 ha water spread area was brought into fish culture resulting in additional fish production of 2,196.60 MT during FY 2020-21 (total fish production in the district is 9,450 MT) and generation of employment opportunities to 480 unemployed youths.
