



WORLD FISHERIES DAY 2021 AWARDS



Best Performing Inland District – Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh



DISTRICT PROFILE:

Balaghat district is one of the largest tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh, having more than 40% of tribes and maximum female sex ratio. The district temperature is hot and humid, which is favourable for fishing and paddy crops. Wainganga river/local ponds/ canals are the lifelines for fish culture, especially prawn cultivation. Looking at the demographic and topographic profile of the district, fisheries activity is one of the most sought-after occupations among the farmers and the tribes. In general, the farmers of the district are not blessed with well-irrigated lands and areas for sustainable agriculture, thus they engage more often in fisheries, animal husbandry, horticulture, and sericulture related activities to generate sustainable livelihood throughout the year.

To empower the tribal and Baiga communities, the Department of Fisheries focused on creating fishing co-operatives societies and self-help groups of tribal women with an objective to uplift the nutritional and economic status of local youths, especially amongst below poverty line (BPL) and marginal farmers.

IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS CENTRAL AND STATE SCHEMES

Multiple schemes are running parallelly to ensure fishermen's welfare. Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), an amount to the tune of Rs. 631.14 lakhs have been allotted. The entire amount was utilized to enable 2,288 beneficiaries to access various benefits offered under the scheme. Blue Revolution scheme was launched in 2014, where Rs. 408.13 lakhs was allotted, and utilized. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has allotted Rs 75.90 lakhs, and the entire amount has been utilized. Under Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), Rs. 37.17 lakhs were allotted and utilized. In addition to all these schemes, various State schemes were undertaken, where an amount of Rs. 312.24 lakhs was allocated and the entire was amount utilized.

WELFARE INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN:

- **Savings cum Relief** – 7,292 beneficiaries were benefited under the scheme with a total fund utilisation of Rs 222.02 Lakhs in the last three years.
- **Kisan Credit Card** – 1,541 beneficiaries have accessed the benefits of the scheme



- **Revolving fund to Fisherwomen Cooperatives** – Rs 250 Lakhs has been allotted in the last three years. The entire amount has been utilised, enabling 2500 beneficiaries to access the scheme's benefits.



CONVERGENCE WITH OTHER SCHEMES:

To create synergies between different government departments and leveraging strengths of each other, the district collaborated with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to set up 2,000 Minakshi Tanks. Fish culture was also promoted through the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs), reaching out to 500 women.

INSTITUTIONAL AND CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES:

The department has undertaken several programs as part of training and capacity-building initiatives for the holistic development of stakeholders. A total of 108 cooperative societies comprising 6,700 members have been set up in the district, which has two lakh fishermen population. 30 block-wise trainings/ awareness programmes/ exposure visits were also conducted in last four years. In addition, 3 NFDB trainings, 10 Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) trainings, 30 departmental trainings, 30 exposure visits, 100 awareness programs were also conducted. A total of Rs 35 lakhs were spent on these activities, which positively impacted ~2000 fishermen across the district. As part of the initiative, the department has also developed various promotional material including brochures, pamphlets, training modules, video and audio files.





INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AND BEST PRACTICES:

Balaghat district has seen the rise of various innovative projects that have successfully helped in the district's growth. A total of 350 individuals have taken up pangasius fish culture, 160 individuals have taken up cage culture technology for utilization of existing water resources, and 18 individuals have taken up biofloc technology for recycling the nutrients, maintaining the water quality and maximizing their profits. Few individuals have also taken up prawn culture. The district is also following various best practices such as promotion of prawn cultivation and polyculture, pangasius culture, integrated farming, and protein-rich fish feed.



IMPACT OF NEW SCHEMES AND TECHNOLOGIES:



Through the introduction of new technologies and implementation of various State and Central Government Schemes, the district has seen an additional ~25 percent increase in water spread area resulting in additional 25% fish production and generation of employment opportunities to unemployed youths and new fish farmers.
