

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF FISHERMEN OF DISTRICT RAMPUR, UTTAR PRADESH**Amita Saxena, Singh R.N.** and Ayatulla Chisti***

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ABSTRACT

A fishermen survey of Rampur district had been made in the state of Uttar Pradesh in connection with the socioeconomic status of fishermen was in a poor condition. In first decade of 21st century a survey was conducted by me to study socioeconomic condition and culture practice adapted by the fishermen. The fish farmers were living below poverty line and they were not adopting scientific techniques to produce fish in their ponds. From the surveyed farmers some fish farmers are selected for demonstration and given them training on scientific knowledge as well as some input materials was also provided to them so that they can adopt the scientific techniques. The fish farmers were not using any fertilizer to produce natural food of fish (phytoplankton and zooplankton) thus the fish production was very less. They were also not giving supplementary feed to fishes for their better growth. After taking training the fish farmer started to not only fertilize their pond but also start feeding to fish with supplementary feed. After a period of five years in 2014 when I conducted a survey of those fishermen who were trained and given technical knowledge I found that the economic condition of the farmers were improved and now they are getting enough earning from the fish culture and they are living in better socioeconomic condition. The survey regarding study of fishermen community of Rampur conducted at about 15 km far from Rampur. During the interaction all the male and main problem observed was that they were illiterate or less educated. The fishermen of district Rampur diverted towards the fish culture practice in pond taken on lease from the private owners. Because in natural water the catch is declining day by day and its impact is not only on fish catch but also on the economic status of the fishermen of the district therefore the fishermen community diverted towards culture practices of fish in village ponds. The fish stock coming from other states have reduced the cost and taste of fish consumers. By that means the income of fisherman was near about INR 60000 - 100000 annually. On the basis of study we can conclude that the fishermen are interested to continue but there are many social and economic problems among them for survive in future.

KEYWORDS: Fish, Fisherman Survey, Socio-economics status.**INTRODUCTION**

Inland natural water resources are usually in the form of lakes, reservoirs, rivers and ponds. These natural waters play an important role in fisheries point of view. These natural water resources have great fishing pressure and hence fish production is reducing day by day. The fishermen community who depends on these water resources for their livelihood facing problems due to scarcity of fish catch from these natural water resources. Thus the fishermen community tends towards the fish culture practices by taking the pond on lease either from the gram sabha or from the private owners.

Fish culture is the rational cultivation of fish in a confined water area where the practices of both agriculture and animal husbandry are applicable. The soil and water management aspect of fish culture practice involving application of organic manures and inorganic fertilizers for the production of microscopic plants, the phytoplankton, is basically similar to agriculture while husbandry of fish such as feeding, breeding and health care is more or less similar to a livestock farming system. This farming system is also unique in that the farmed animal is cold-blooded or poikilothermic and lives in a water medium. Although this fish farming is approximately 2 000 years old, the importance of it has been realized only recently in the face of mounting pressure on land resources and scarcity of animal protein for the ever increasing human population. While introducing fish culture, it seems reasonable to discuss certain important aspects of fish farming systems and their relevance to the rural development programme of developing countries.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

To determine the socioeconomic status of the fishermen the following questionnaire was made and distributed to the fishermen of district Rampur engaged in fish culture concerned.

The format of the questionnaire has been given below

“FISHERMEN” QUESTIONNAIRE”

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

| Qn. No. | Question | Response | Percentage |
|---------|-----------------------|---|------------|
| 1 | Name of the fishermen | | |
| 2 | Gender | Male Female | |
| 3 | Age groups | < 16 16- 28 29- 40 41- 57 >58 | |
| 4 | Marital Status | Married Unmarried Other | |
| 5 | Family members | Daughter Son | |
| 6 | Address | | |
| 7 | Educational status | Junior Metric/ Secondary Graduate/ master’s Illiterate | |

II. FISHING PROGRAM

| | | | |
|----|---|---|--|
| 8 | Where is the fish is sold | In local market Export to metro cities Export to other cities Given to the owner | |
| 9. | Transportation mode | Bicycle Load carrier | |
| 10 | Preference of fish by consumer | | |
| 11 | Varieties of fish in market | | |
| 12 | Which net is used for fishing? | Gill net Drag net Other (specify) | |
| 13 | Is the net provided to you? | Yes No Made yourself | |
| 14 | Do you catch the same amount everyday? | Yes No | |
| 15 | If yes, then what is the quantity? | | |
| 16 | If no, then describe what the average amount every day you catch? | | |
| 17 | Fishermen’s income and work Other source of income | | |
| 18 | What are you doing during winter season? | | |
| 20 | Is your family members also helped you or not? | | |
| 21 | If yes, then who helps you? | Son Daughter Wife | |
| 22 | And how? | | |

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The socioeconomic status of fishermen on the basis of questionnaire is given below. Here we have selected 10 fishermen randomly.

| S. N. | Questions | frequency/ answers | Percentage |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|------------|
| A. General informations | | | |
| 1. | Sex | | |
| | a. Male | 10 | 100 |
| | b. Female | 0 | 0 |
| 2. | Age | | |
| | a. < 15 | 0 | 0 |
| | b. 15- 29 | 0 | 00 |
| | c. 30- 44 | 4 | 40 |
| | d. 45- 59 | 6 | 60 |
| | e. > 60 | 0 | 00 |
| 3. | Marital status | | |
| | a. Single | 0 | 00 |
| | b. Married | 10 | 100 |
| | c. Others | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | Resident of the village | | |
| | a. Yes | 10 | 100 |
| | b. No | 0 | 00 |
| | c. NA | 0 | 00 |
| 5. | Education of the fishermen | | |
| | a. Up to junior | 2 | 20 |
| | b. Matric/ Secondary | 0 | 00 |
| | c. Graduate/ Master's | 0 | 0 |
| | d. Illiterate | 8 | 80 |
| B. Fishing programme | | | |
| 1. | Where the fish is sold | | |
| | a. In local Market | 10 | 100 |
| | b. Export to metros | 0 | 0 |
| | c. Export to other cities | 0 | 0 |
| 2. | How the fish is transported | | |
| | a. In Ice boxes | 00 | 00 |
| | b. In open bags (Tokaries) | 10 | 00 |
| | c. In heat insulated boxes with ice layering | 00 | 00 |
| 3. | Is there regular record of catch | | |
| | a. Yes | 0 | 00 |
| | b. No | 10 | 100 |
| 4. | If yes then who keeps stock of it? | | |
| | a. fishermen | 0 | 0 |
| | b. Owner/ contractor | 0 | 0 |
| | c. Other | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|-----|
| 5. | Which net is used for fishing | | |
| a. | Gill net | 00 | 00 |
| b. | Drag net | 50 | 00 |
| c. | Cast net | 50 | 00 |
| 6. | Is the net provided to you | | |
| a. | yes | 0 | 00 |
| b. | No | 10 | 100 |
| c. | NA | 0 | 0 |
| d. | Made by yourself | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | What the amount you catch daily | 25-40 kg | |
| C. Fishermen's income and work | | | |
| 1. | Who appointed you? | Owner itself | 100 |
| 2. | What you do in closed season | agriculture | 100 |
| 3. | IS your family members help you | Yes our son helps | |

DISCUSSION

During the survey it was observed that fishermen community engaged in fishing do not have their own pond therefore they depends on ponds of gramsabha and the other private ponds. When the fish stock of their leased pond is reduced or depleted they purchase the fish from fish farmers who although culture the fish but do not engaged in fishing activity. The children of fishermen are helping them in catching the fish and some time they also help in transporting the fish from pond side to the market. The fishermen community although participate in training programmers organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra and state fisheries department and culturing fish in their own leased pond but they do not achieve good production because of their poorness.

The fishermen engaged in fish culture and fishing activity they range the age group 40 to 54 years and their education either nil or up to primary level. The number of family members of the fishermen was ranges 6-10. They do not insured themselves by any insurance policy because of the lack of money although they know benefit of it. All the fishermen lives in the villages engaged in fishing by capturing the fish from their own leased pond or from the private owner pond. Generally they catch fish by dragnet with the help of their family members and relatives when water level is more than 4 fit and in low water level they use cost net for catching the fish. The transportation of fish is carried out by the bicycle in the bucket along with the ice. The consumer mostly prefer Rohu, Catla, and Grass carp first and then after other carps. One fisher man in a market sold about 25-40 kg fish.

CONCLUSION

The fishermen community witch engaged in fish culture and fishing activities are poor thus they are unable to adopt scientific technology to produce fish at scientific level that is about 6000 kg. Another major problem to achieve scientific level fish production is unavailability of desired size and species of fish seed. Thus it is need to give financial support by providing loan on easy way through banks and government should make legislation on selling of desired size of fish seed along with the appropriate percentage of fish species in Indian Major Carp mixed seed.

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