

Nalanda Open University

Department of Economics

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- Topic – Fishery and Employment in Bihar

Introduction

- Fish farming is an important and fast growing sector in Bihar. The economy of Bihar is mainly dependent on agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries. Fisheries and aquaculture sector play a key role in food security and employment generation as significant proportion of population depend upon fisheries, aquaculture and allied activities for their livelihood sustenance and income. Besides, the sector also generates precious revenue for the state.
- Fisheries sector has an important role in overall development of Bihar. There is no dearth of natural resources in Bihar. Therefore maximum utilization of water resources can fetch prosperity for the state. Fish is a nutritious food, & can be easily available to all people, also avenues of self employment, and opportunities for a large no. of people living in rural areas. It has potential for sufficient & sustainable wealth generation for rural people. It has ample opportunities for marketing inside & outside Bihar.

Significance of Fisheries in Bihar

The importance of fisheries sector to the state economy has increased particularly after the creation of Jharkhand as a separate state. The state has two distinct land masses on either side of the holy river Ganga and is divided into 38 administrative districts, 21 in North Bihar and 17 in South Bihar. Bihar, lying in the heart of Gangatic plain, is blessed with fertile land resources through extreme hot and cold climatic conditions along with flood and drought situations are characteristics part of geography.

Fisheries as Income Generator in Bihar

Fisheries in Bihar may prove to be a very good source of income generator because if the farmers started farming along with fisheries then it will fetch a tremendous income. As a source of employment generator it is fact that fisheries can change the basic pattern of farming and it is well known that mixed farming always be the optimum use of economic resources by which can exploit the maximum from it. The state like Bihar has always a benefit of having more water resources and water reserves are the natural place of fisheries and if the people and government both utilized it in a positive manner it may be income generator as well as prosperity generator.

Problems of Fisheries Industry in Bihar

- Farmers always miss on the institutional credits and fishery is highly capital intensive business. It is extremely promising but it lacks the required support. Money is needed on the day one to get into fishery but unfortunately it is tremendously difficult to get the bank loan for aquaculture. If the fish farm is canal fed then farmer struggles with water and electricity tribulation too. Yet fish farming is recommended because problems and challenges are part and parcel of every business undertaking.
- Bihar is bestowed with vast and varied inland aquatic resources. The paradox of fisheries development in Bihar is that while it has large, untapped and underutilized water resources for aquaculture. Despite being the fourth highest inland producing state in the country, it has to depend on Andhra Pradesh for the supply of about 1.5 lakh tonnes of fish. The annual domestic demand of fish within the state is nearly 5.82 lakh tonnes, against the present annual production of about 4.32 lakh tones only. The annual per capita fish availability of the state is 7.56 kg per head while the national average is 9 kg per head. The average fish production from the available water resources of the state is 2600 kg/hectare per year against the national average of 2900 kg/hectare per year. The underutilization aquaculture resources, unscientific management of water bodies and lack of entrepreneurship are some of the most obvious reasons for the substantial gap between demand and supply.

Policies Adopted in Fish Production in Bihar

- Conservation of Water in Tanks & Ponds.
- Intensive/Semi- Intensive Fish Culture in Tanks & Ponds
- Provision of Inlets Outlets in Mauns & Rivulets.
- Culture based Fisheries in Mauns/Chauris by stocking fingerlings/yearlings.
- Enhancing of Fish Seed Production upto 650 million.
- Infrastructural Dev. Of Fish Marketing
- Training of Fish Farmers to acquaint them with latest know-how of Fish Production.
- Dev. of financial support to pisciculturists.
- Insurance of Fish Crops.
- Creation of New Fisheries estate

Action Points taken to Fisheries Industry as a Production Process

- **To Develop Pond Aquaculture**
- **Culture Based Fisheries Enhancement In Ox-bow Lakes**
- **Development Of Waterlogged Areas**
- **Reservoir Fisheries**
- **Quality Seed Throughout The Year**
- **Diversification of Aquaculture Activities**
- **Integrated Fish Farming**
- **Marketing and Value Addition**
- **Social & Economic Securities to Active Fishermen/Women**