

FISH VALUE CHAIN

Quarterly Newsletter

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DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMME CONDUCTED ON PREPARATION OF HYGIENIC DRY FISH UNDER APART (FISHERY SUB COMPONENT)

The State of Assam is enriched with vast water resources offered by Brahmaputra and Barak river system with their numerous tributaries, large numbers of flood plain wetlands, swamps and ponds. However, the occurrence of freshwater fishes in these water bodies is not enough to meet the daily demand of the large section of fish eating population. Nearly 90% of the population prefer fresh fish for consumption. However, with recurring floods in the state and also during Jeng fishing (a traditional community fishing method in the state) a large quantity of miscellaneous varieties of fishes are sold at a very cheap rate. In many areas of the State, these fishes are preserved using different traditional techniques to avoid wastage, where sun drying is one of the common method. This traditional methods of drying fish does not have a long shelf life and unhygienic as well. As the quality of the sun dried fishes is not up to the mark, they are sold at a very lower price which ultimately hampers the profit margin.



Dressing of Fish for Dry fish Preparation

The importance and demand for dry fish in the diet of the population of the North East region, has led to the emergence of one of the largest dry fish market in Asia, situated at Jagiroad in Morigaon district of Assam. Considering the existing viable market of dry fish in the region as well as for exporting such products to the South East Asian countries, a shift from traditional method of drying fish to a scientific and hygienic method is the need of the hour.



Drying of fishes in Solar tent drier

As a Project Development Objective of APART, the College of Fisheries, Raha, Assam Agricultural University has developed a technology for drying the fish in a hygienic manner using solar tent drier. This technology was transferred to 15 (fifteen) Self-Help Groups and Fishery co-operative societies through trainings and demonstration programmes covering all the Project Districts. This programmes covered the entire process from cleaning and preparing the fishes upto packaging and labelling for marketing..



Packaging of dried fish

**WRITESHOP ON BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
UNDER APART**



Workshop on Best Management Practices

The Department of Fisheries and WorldFish, as an initiative under APART organised a Write shop component on 28th June in Guwahati on Best Management Practices to be followed for fisheries sub-component. Dr. Benoy Kumar Barman, WorldFish Expert from Bangladesh shared his experiences in promoting Mola and Small Indigenous fishes in Bangladesh and Orissa, which has helped in increasing the production of these fishes as well as providing nutritional security to the local communities. Mola and other small indigenous fishes of Assam, which are very rich in essential nutrients like vitamins and minerals. The preservation of these variety of fishes has been taken up under the World Bank funded Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) implemented by the Department of Fisheries. These will be promoted along with the polyculture of carps in pond aquaculture, beel fisheries and in paddy cum fish integrated farming practices. Addressing the gathering, Sri P.N. Das, Director of Fisheries, stressed for production of small indigenous species like mola, puthi in Assam. He also stressed to increase the quality fish seed production in the State through wild collected brood fish. Under APART, quality fish seed production has already started in three Govt Fish farms, namely Ulubari Fish Farm, Guwahati, J.B. Garh Fish Farm, Nagaon and Islamabad Fish Farm, Silchar, the Director informed.

Dr. Jharendu Pant, WorldFish Expert from Malaysia stressed on the need for Better Management Practices to be followed by the farmers in Polyculture of carps and in Paddy cum fish integrated farming in Assam. Dr.R. Suresh, WorldFish Resident Consultant, Dr. B.Lahon, Sr. Consultant, National Fisheries Development Board, Dr. Dipak Sharma, Associate Professor, College of Fisheries, Raha, Dr. Dipesh Debnath, Sr. Scientist, CIFRI, Dr.Nagesh Barik, Sr. Scientist, CIFA and Dr Sanjay Sarma, Fishery Co-ordinator, ARIAS Society participated in the event as a Resource Persons. Earlier on 27th June, the implementation of the fishery component of APART Project in Assam was technically reviewed in the Workshop on Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning of Fishery Activities under APART by the Officials of Department of Fisheries, WorldFish Experts and ARIAS Society and technical interventions were proposed to be taken up to increase the fish production and productivity in a sustainable manner

Around 30 fisheries officials from different districts of Assam participated and interacted with the resource persons on both the days.

A. CONDUCTING TRAINING FOR PROJECT BENEFICIARIES ON “POLY CULTURE IN POND FISHERIES’

A total number of 248 project beneficiaries attended a 3-day long residential training programme at College of Fisheries, Raha on “ Polyculture in Pond Fisheries” during the period from April, 2019 to June, 2019. Rest 269 beneficiaries were trained upto March, 2019. Thus a total of 517 beneficiaries have been trained. Details as below:

Table 1- Numbers of Beneficiaries Trained during April- June, 2019

Sl. No.	Name of district	Date	No. of beneficiaries trained
1	Nagaon	2 - 4 May, 2019	40
2	Kamrup	9 - 11 May, 2019	18
3	Barpeta 20 Darrang 9	13 - 15 May, 2019	29
4	Nalbari	16 - 18 May, 2019	35
5	Kokrajhar 10 Sonitpur 15	20 - 22 May, 2019	25
6	Cachar	27 - 29 May, 2019	29
7	Nagaon 20 Morigaon 8	8 – 10 June, 2019	28
8	Kamrup 11 Darrang 14	11 – 13 June, 2019	25
9	Dhubri 11 Nalbari 8	14 – 16 June, 2019	19
		Total	248

B. PROGRESS OF NON-BENEFICIARIES TRAINING

A total of 627 numbers of non beneficiaries farmers have been trained on “Polyculture in Pond Fisheries” from April, 2019 to June, 2019 by College of Fisheries, Raha ; FRC, Jorhat and 6 (six) different assigned KVKs. After all, a total of 667 non-beneficiaries farmers have been trained out during April to June,2019

Table-2: Numbers of Non Beneficiaries Trained during April - June, 2019

Sl. No.	Name of district	Organized by	Venue	No. of beneficiaries trained
1	Cachar	CFSc, Raha	DFDO Office, Cachar	30
2	Sonitpur	CFSc, Raha	DFDO Office, Sonitpur	27
3	Nagaon	KVK, Nagaon	KVK, Nagaon	90
4	Morigaon	KVK, Morigaon	KVK, Morigaon	90
5	Nalbari	KVK, Nalbari	KVK, Nalbari	90
6	Kamrup	KVK, Kamrup	KVK, Kamrup	90
7	Dhubri	KVK, Dhubri	KVK, Dhubri	90
8	Lakhimpur	KVK, Lakhimpur	KVK, Lakhimpur	90
9	Jorhat	FRC, Jorhat	FRC, Jorhat	30
			Total	627



Snap shots from non-beneficiary training at Cachar, KVK-Kamrup, KVK-Lakhimpur

EXPOSURE VISIT TO ODISHA UNDER WORLD BANK FUNDED PROJECT ON ASSAM PROJECT ON AGRIBUSINESS AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION (APART)

In order to boost the productivity of Aquaculture through diversification of fish species and improved technology, an exposure visit to Odisha was proposed by the Department of Fisheries, Assam under World Bank financed - Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) under supervision of World Fish, Odisha. The team comprised of 15 Fishery Development Officers (FDO) and 5 Fishery Demonstrator (FD). The visit was scheduled from 16th - 21st June, 2019. During the exposure, the team visited the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), and observed the production performance of minor carp that include production performance of minor carp viz. *Labeo calbasu*, *Labeo fimbriatus*, *Labeo gonius*, *chrinnus mrigala*, *Puntius japonicas* and also the production and culture practices of Manipur state fish *Osteobrama belangeri*. They also visited a well managed Tilapia Hatchery unit and Carp Hatchery unit and held discussions on Monosex tilapia culture and its potential in fishery sector. The tilapia hatchery was established with an objective of species diversification.

The team also had opportunity to visit CIFA feed mill where both floating and shrinking feed are prepared using a Chinese model of feed mill, where feeds of different sizes can be produced viz. 1mm, 2mm etc and also the ornamental fish breeding and culture unit of CIFA. During their visit to CIFA, the team had discussions on Quality Seed Production System and their farm availability, nutritional aspect of feed, Soil Health Management aspect and Diseases aspect. The officials also visited the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) brood bank at Kausalyaganga., where they could see the culture of Jayanti Rohu, Improve catla, Amur carp, Puntius japonicus, M. rosenbergii, Jayanti rohu spawn (10 days old spawn) and also witnessed an innovative method of Koi carp being cultured in the earthen pond. The team also visited the Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) pond located in NFDB brood bank, Kausalyaganga and different fish culture farms in the state. The exposure visit proved beneficial for the team as they could see new varieties of like Jayanti rohu, Improve catla, GIFT tilapia, Minor carps, Amur carp, Puntius japonicus, Macrobrachium rosenbergii etc. which have higher potential of growth but are yet to be introduced in Assam.



Exposure visit to Odisha of the fishery officials

SHORT DURATION FISH CULTURE DEMONSTRATION

The Short Duration Fish Culture Demonstration is initiated under APART in 15(Fifteen) Districts. Stocking of yearlings in all the Demonstration were completed by 30th June, 2019. The short duration fish culture is a climate resilient Technology where farmers can get market led production within short span of time.

The stocking was successfully carried out in Morigaon and Sonitpur districts in the month of March 2019 and accordingly harvesting was done after 81 - 90 days. Fish production in the both the districts was more than 10 Quintals. The initiative was welcomed by the farmers and they were ready to adopt the Short duration Fish Culture technique.



Short duration fish culture, Morigaon



Short duration fish culture, Sonitpur

FISHERY DEPARTMENT MOVES FOR QUALITY FISH SEED UNDER APART

The Fishery Department of Assam moves for quality fish seed production to assure market led fish production under World Bank funded Assam Agri Business and Rural Transformation Project (APART). For production of the quality fish seed, quality brood stock is very essential. Under this project, the Department has stocked 698 kg quality brood fish from natural water bodies in three Departmental fish farm such as Ulubari Fish Farm, Guwahati, JB Garh Fish Farm under Nagaon District and Islamabad Fish farm at Silchar. These three Departmental fish farm has required infrastructure for seed production and through these quality fish seed the beneficiaries as well as the non-beneficiaries under this project will be benefitted for market led production. Again, because of known source of fish seeds, the producers will be able to grow big fish within a specific time period and at the same time consumers will be benefitted. The Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries visited personally the the Ulubari Fish Farm, Kamrup and J.B. Garh Fish farm, Nagaon and monitor the quality fish seed production unit under APART



Stocking of Brood Fish in Govt Fish Farm, Ulubari



Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries visit to J.B.Garh Fish Farm, Nagaon

SNAPSHOTS OF FISHERY ACTIVITIES UNDER APART



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