

## Scientific support for pond construction helps fresh water fish



The farmer earned a net profit of more than Rs. 50,000 in three months

Dr. D. Seenappa, Chief Scientific Officer, Inland fisheries division, main research station, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Hebbal, Bangalore Whatever be the crop, whether grown in a small area or in a large landholding, the bottom line should be a good price for farmers," says. After all, any agricultural enterprise should aim at income generation for the farmer.

### Significant role

The role of proper technical expertise assumes significance in guiding a farmer as manpower shortage, shrinking lands, high input costs, and lack of proper marketing avenues plague agriculture today.

Mere technical innovations far removed from the social life structure of the farmers can never hope to succeed. Both scientific experts and the farmers must work hand in hand.

Dr. Seenappa said that for our country to become secure in food production, our focus should be on farmers and not merely on scientists and their inventions.

Mr. Kumar V Naidu, of Holebyranahalli village in Bhadravathi taluk, owns 10 acres, adjacent to the Bhadra river canal. Mainly engaged in traditional paddy cultivation, the farmer today is well known in the region as a leading fresh water fish grower.

A training program organized by the Inland fisheries department some years back on freshwater prawn farming motivated the farmer to construct two earthen ponds (each one acre) in the field to start rearing fishes. Scientists provided the technical support in the pond construction and benefit schemes were offered by the Department of Fisheries. The one acre earthen pond remained dry for a week and later 100 kg of agriculture lime sprinkled all over the pond bottom, and left undisturbed for two days and later filled with water.

### Cowdung slurry

About, one tonne of cow dung slurry broadcast all over the pond water to facilitate algal growth, and fingerlings released into the pond after a week. Initially, for five days, the fingerlings' food consisted of two gram of groundnut cake powder, and later a mixture of rice bran and groundnut cake powder fed twice daily. Addition of manure once in 15-20 days helped in good algal growth.

### Regular monitoring

The technical team regularly monitored the water quality, growth and health of stocked fish seed once in 10 days and the farmer advised accordingly for the input management by the project team.

Dr. Seenappa explained during the demonstration our team taught the farmer all aspects related to improved fish seed harvesting and handling such as seed grading based on size and seed packing using oxygen.

The farmer said, he used about 50,000 of fingerlings of catla, rohu and grass carp varieties as his own

stocking in a natural tank and the rest sold (catla, rohu at Rs 1.0 per fingerling and grass carp at Rs.1.50) to other farmers. and spent Rs. 1,10,0000 towards buying fish seeds, manure, fertilizer, feed and labour and earned a net profit of Rs. 58,550 in three months. Influenced by the success of Mr. Kumar other farmers in the area are also evincing keen interest in this fish growing project.

### **Impact**

Dr. K. Manjappa, Professor, Zonal Agricultural Research Station, he explained that the impact of the demonstration led to establishment of two new fish seed production units in the region.

For more details readers can contact Mr. Kumar. V. Naidu, Holebyranahalli, Badravathi (Taluk), Shimoga (District), mobile: 09480011958 and Dr. Seenappa, at email: drdseenappa@yahoo.co.in, mobile: 09845244458.

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