



A Case Study on pattern of Aqua Fish Production in Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract: The researcher asked the farmers regarding problems involved in aqua farming in the study area. The results are tested with Likert's five point scale method. It is identified from the table that 87.58 per cent of the farmers facing losses during slack season as evident of Likert's five point scale scored by 906 points and ranked first followed that about 89.19 per cent of the farmers felt that chemical pollution of fertile land caused to attack disease to the fish (ranked two) and it became more losses to the farmers. Farmers are expecting more visits of company agents to purchase products. However, they said that irregular of visiting of company agents caused to disappointing in marketing of fish products.

Key words: purchase products, aqua fish, agricultural state

Introduction

The role of fisheries in agricultural economy of the state has been increasing as is evident from its enhancing share in the agricultural state gross domestic product (AgGSDP). Andhra Pradesh has a coast line of 970 km with vast scope for production of fish, prawn and other sea products. Keeping in view of huge demand for sea food in the international market, the state government is promoting the best practices like simplifying the procedures for registration of aqua farms through Mee-seva, permitting aquaculture in DKT lands, cluster approach and continuous awareness campaign at the primary producer level in the existing 181 aqua clusters covering 1.27 lakh hectares areas.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh accords top priority to Fisheries Development and its intervention for marine, brackish water, Inland fisheries, reservoirs development and ornamental

fishery trade, with a view to enhance the fish production to 42 lakh tones in the next five years from the present level of 19.64 lakh tones and to double the exports value from the present level of about Rs.16,000 crore. It indicate the importance of the sector.

The major objective of this paper is to present the farmers perception on production of aqua fish. It is found from the study that the growth of inland fish production is gradually increasing. The present study tries to find out the reasons for increasing/decreasing in fish production in the study area. Regarding, about 10 per cent each of the aqua farmers to their total active participants in fishing and farming are selected for the study.

Extent of Aqua Cultivation

An Increase in fish production depends upon many factors namely, the expansion of the area under aquaculture, diversification of culture technologies and



cultivable fish species and a system of information transfer from the research and development centres to the farming households. Farmers in coastal Andhra Pradesh are turning away from traditional agriculture and taking to aquaculture like fish to water. So much so that in the state, the land under fresh water and brackish water aquaculture has seen a fivefold increase in the last three years. The boom has very good reasons to back it up. Fish farming brings in more profits than agriculture. "With rice can't rise," a recently converted

The Government of Andhra Pradesh through its new fisheries policy introduced many schemes for farmers and feed and seed manufacturers to promote their activity in 2015. The interest subsidy on loans for all farmers and feed and seed manufacturers has been introduced. Also, the power tariff for farmers has reduced from Rs.4.65 per unit to Rs.3.75 a unit. The government has liberalised the process of permission for construction of fish tanks by farmers. The new policy aims at increasing the aqua production in the state from Rs.22,000 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.35,000 by 2018-19.

farmer from Pothumarru village in Krishna district, "but with fish you can keep your head above water." Nearly 75 per cent of the land in 100-odd villages in Krishna, East and West Godavari districts has been converted into fish ponds. Fresh water farms dot the Kolleru Lake region. Large companies, fishermen cooperatives, liquor barons and finance companies are now queuing up for leases for land along and adjacent to the state's coastline, looking to cash in on about 17,000 hectares. Already, more than a fifth has been leased out.

Table 1 explains the total length of cultivating area of aqua culture in the study area. It is found that around 59 per cent of the farmers are cultivating inland fish in less than 10 acres followed by 20.48 per cent farmers in 11-15 acres, 9.03 per cent farming in less than 20 acres, 6.94 per cent are farming by up to 25 acres and 4.67 per cent are cultivating by above 26 acres. It is concluded that the size of cultivation is significant level. The farmers said that they are willing to extend aqua cultivation at some extent also.

Table 1: Total length of cultivating area of aqua culture

Sl.No.	Acre	Number of cultivators	Per cent
1	5 -10	365	58.88
2	11-15	127	20.48
3	16-20	56	9.03
4	21-25	43	6.94
5	Above 25	29	4.67
	Total	620	100.00

Source: Field survey



Table 2 shows the Statement on average cost and revenue of fish production per acre. It is found that the average production of shrimp is 2 tonnes and fish products by 1.50 tonnes per acre in the study area. The cost of production to shrimp is Rs.1.50 lakh and Rs.0.43

lakh for fish products. The average revenue of shrimp per tonne is attained by Rs.3 lakh and Rs.0.67 lakh in case of fish.

Table 2: Statement on average cost and revenue of fish production per acre

Sl.No.	Product Name	Production (in tonnes)	Cost per Tonne (in lakhs)	Revenue per Tonne (in lakhs)
01	Shrimp	2.00	1.50	3.00
02	Fish	1.50	0.43	0.67

Source: Field survey

Aqua farmers’ perception on factors effecting aqua culture

Pattern and the existence of fish production can be assessed by the experience of stakeholder who involved in the activity. The researcher interviewed the farmers regarding factors effecting aqua culture. The data obtained with the use of Likert’s Scale has been converted into weighted scores. For each statement the investigator identified the opinion with 5 point scale method of: Strongly agree , Agree , Can’t say, Strongly disagree and disagree

The perception level is measured in two ways. One is measuring the percentage and second way is Likert’s five point scale. Basing on the perception of the respondents, total acceptance (agreed plus strongly agreed) level and disagreed (disagreed plus strongly disagreed) level is measured.

Table 3 reveal the aqua farmers’ perception on the factors extent the aqua farming in the study area. The statements arranged as: availability of better seed (S1), Getting Subsidy incentives (S2), Financial facilities(S3), Plentiful availability of Raw material (S4), Transport facilities (S5), Favourable Climate conditions (S6), Marketing/fish purchase agencies facilities (S7), Attained

expected output (S8), No problem of middlemen (S9), Direct export promotion by Government (S10), Demand for fish is good (S11) and Profitable activity (S12). It is identified from the table that majority of the respondents are highly satisfied (agreed plus strongly agreed) with transport facilities (S5) scored by 959 points and percentile by 100 per cent. About 89.19 per cent of the respondents are satisfied with plentiful availability of raw material (S4) has scored by 940 points (second rank) and shared by 90.90 per cent. Meanwhile, they were satisfied about financial facilities (S3) but they give third rank with 934 point and shared by 81.80 per cent.

Majority of the farmers (93.06%) said that better seed of fish is also available (ranked by fourth and shared by 72.70 per cent. The remaining is said that sometimes second quality/fertile seed is supplying by hatcheries. It is further observed that about 93.06 per cent of the farmers are satisfied with the current marketing/fish purchase agencies facilities (S7). The statement ranked fifth and shared by 63.60 per cent. Climate conditions (S6) are not favourable to the aqua farm in the study area as stated by 16.45 per cent of the farmers and shared with 54.50 per cent.



Demand for fish is good is attractable and remunerative (ranked seventh and shared by). About 93.06 per cent of the farmers said that demand for other than fish is attained from local and

shrimp has export demand. But 59.19 per cent of the farmers said that they were attained expected output. The remaining are dissatisfied with the output (ranked eight).

Table 3: Aqua farmers’ perception on factors effecting aqua farming

S.No.	Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Can't say	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Total
1	S1	392	185	18	15	10	620
2	S2	156	183	121	90	70	620
3	S3	403	179	8	21	9	620
4	S4	451	102	21	18	28	620
5	S5	382	214	9	4	11	620
6	S6	42	60	92	241	185	620
7	S7	364	213	23	11	9	620
8	S8	215	152	144	46	63	620
9	S9	371	173	52	13	11	620
10	S10	81	74	135	9	321	620
11	S11	401	102	32	23	62	620
12	S12	203	192	14	62	149	620

Source: Field survey

Interestingly, about 63.71 per cent of the farmers (ranked 9th) viewed that the current activity is profitable while compared with agriculture. The remaining are not satisfied with profits attained from the fish production. Farmers are ranked 10th to getting subsidy incentives. About 54.68 per cent of the farmers satisfied with subsidies provided by the government. The remaining farmers are not satisfied with incentives. Majority of the farmers are expecting direct export promotion by Government (S10) through cooperative aqua farming. At present only 25 per cent of the farmers are linked with exporters. While asking about the impact of middlemen, 87.74 per cent of the respondents felt that no problem has faced from the middle men. They are getting support from the middle man in extend their market.

Farmers’ Perception on Problems in Aqua Farming :

The researcher asked the farmers regarding problems involved in aqua farming in the study area. The results are tested with Likert’s five point scale method. It is identified from the table that 87.58 per cent of the farmers facing losses during slack season as evident of Likert’s five point scale scored by 906 points and ranked first followed that about 89.19 per cent of the farmers felt that chemical pollution of fertile land caused to attack disease to the fish (ranked two) and it became more losses to the farmers. Farmers are expecting more visits of company agents to purchase products. However, they said that irregular of visiting of company agents caused to disappointing in marketing of fish products.

It is further found from the farmers’ perception that many of the



farmers (84.96%) are marketing their products through the middlemen. Middlemen have not been paying amount on time (problem ranked third). They are dissatisfied with the lack of government supports of subsidies and marketing of fish products (ranked fourth). They said that they can produce more products if more export promotion facilities provided by government with subsidy.

Conclusion

The major objective of this paper is to present the farmers perception on production of aqua fish. It is found from the study that the growth of inland fish production is gradually increasing. The present study tries to find out the reasons for increasing/decreasing in fish production in the study area. Regarding, about 10 per cent each of the aqua farmers to their total active participants in fishing and farming are selected for the study. Around 59 per cent of the farmers are cultivating inland fish in less than 10 acres followed by 20.48 per cent farmers in 11-15 acres, 9.03 per cent farming in less than 20 acres, 6.94 per cent are farming by up to 25 acres and 4.67 per cent are cultivating by above 26 acres. It is concluded that the size of cultivation is significant level. The farmers said that they are willing to extend aqua cultivation at some extent also.

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