

A Case Study on- Factors Behind Seizing a Functional Fish Seed Hatchery

Rural farmers who lives in rural areas and fully depends on agriculture and its allied activities for their survival. Likewise Mahulboni, a rural village, situated in Paschim Medinipur district, is one of the backward districts of the state west Bengal with 18% SC, 15% ST population, where 50,000 ha. of land is under wasteland hold by the small and marginal group of farmers. Land is undulated, with poor soil status content in respect to low nutrient status, low water retention capacity, and low organic matter content. Soil is acidic in nature, rich in Fe, Al & silicon and deficient to B, Ca, Mg, S and Zn. Soil is coarse sand to sandy loam. Presently, this land is used for pasture. Rice based crop production system was the traditional farming system of the Mahulboni village under Red and Lateritic agro-climatic zone.



Banshajuri is a small village of Binpur 2 block with a household of 203 and every household depends on agriculture. But this village was economically and agriculturally very weak due to the scarcity of water and due to lack of knowledge in agriculture. Along with main-stream agricultural activities, an agri-allied activities like fisheries is also well practiced in this region. During the pilot visits from SBKVK multi-disciplinary team, several cases were noted in the field of agri-allied activities, one of such is described below-

The case study has been done on the basis of a successful fish farmer. Especially the farmer used to produce seeds by means of hatchery operation of his own experience and self-owned hatchery complex. But after 10-12 years he had to stop this occupation due to several reasons. It has been tried to focus those points as per the interviewed statement of the concerned fish farmer.

The name of the farmer is Sandip Ghosh. He is around 40 years old. He started his fisheries activity during the year 1984, but in the year 1990 he converted the business in a commercial scale. At that time he used to take the ownership of Govt. Beels on the basis of lease agreement, adjacent to the roads in this area, and fishes like *koi*, *singhi*, *magurwas* cultured. But it was not sufficient to meet up the expectations of earning. Keeping the view in the mind he planned to set up an own hatchery complex, and according to his planning he set up it in the year 1992 at home, initially by investing Rs.70, 000. The area of the hatchery was 2 Katha. Then in the year 2002 he established a Glass jar hatchery.

He used to sell the seeds mainly in the Naihati fish market, but other farmers also used to procure seeds from him and fish seeds were being sent to different places of towns and markets. He was doing his business smoothly, but at the same time the tendency of lending among the

buyers was increased. They were taking the seeds as per their need but the exact cost was not being paid. As a result the farmer was not been able to run the hatchery smoothly, due to shortage of money. In this way one most successful, flourished farmer as well as an entrepreneur gradually succumbed to losses.

At last in the year 2003-04 he had to stop this business and around Rs. 6 lakhs has been lost to the market. At present he is doing a networking business.

Special invention

During the time of interview he informed that, when the hatchery operation was going to be stopped one buyer expressed his urgent needs of seed. To meet up demand he used mixture of milt and sperm of different species, and the resultant came out as a peculiar structured hardy fish species, having high disease resistance and fast growth rate and exceptional feeding habit. But, till today he did not come up with the details of his invented miraculous species, which was the resultant of his acquired technical skill of hatchery operation.