Report of Capacity building Fisheries training to Farmers from ASR district on "Fish Entreprises Development" organized during 19-20 April,2024 in Araku Valley, Andhra Pradesh under SABAL program support

A two-day skill development training program on "Fish Entreprises Development" was organized under SABAL program support at Araku valley, Telangana during 19-20 April 2024. A total of 22 numbers of participants from 7 mandals of the ASR district and Vizianagaram. (Enlisted in the Table-1)

The list of participants is annexed.

The objective of the training:

- Understanding the importance of adopting rainfed fish farming
- Culture Practices of IMCs & EMCs (Rearing & Grow Out Culture)
- Eco-Farm Pond Concept and bund intensification
- Method demonstration at the farm pond site (Harvesting & water quality parameter testing)

List of the Participants (Mandal wise)

Sl No	Name of the Mandal	Number of participants
1	Dumbriguda	7
2	Araku Valley	4
3	G Madugula	3
4	Hukumpeta	2
5	Gangavaram	3
6	Kurupam	2
7	Paderu	4
Total		**25**

(Table - 1)

Day 1 Proceedings

The program began with a welcome address and a narration of the objective of the training program by Mr Damodar followed by a brief introduction by the participants with their expectations from the training program.

Dr M L Sanyasi Rao, Associate Director, WASSAN started the session with a group activity, the participants were divided into three groups mandalwise. They were assigned to list the details of existing practices, species cultured, pond sizes, total harvest and income.

He delivered a session with Mapping, clustering of GPs and implementation pattern of the fisheries project in ASR district as a rainfed fish culture initiative. The model focuses on encouraging rearing and grow-out practices depending on the selection criteria and suitability of the pond.

Smt T Bhagyalaxmi, VFA, Dept of Fisheries explained about the ongoing schemes and suitable culture practices in the locality. She also expressed her willingness to extend support for the mobilization of fish farmers.

The session was followed by the group activity where the participants were divided into three groups. They were asked to calculate the feed requirement for different months during the culture of fish. A detailed discussion was held on the method of calculation of feed quantity , % of feed to be given according to the total biomass of the pond, composition of fish feed, and nutritional requirement.

The participants were given a manual (in Telugu language) describing in detail Fish Farming Techniques.

Day 2 Proceedings

An exposure visit to the Eco-farm pond of Mr Boyi Budr, a farmer from Garudaguda Village, Pedalabdu GP was arranged.

Fish harvesting - Materials required:

- Weighing Machine and measuring scale to observe the growth and weight of the fish
- 4-5 Fish feed types (locally available)

- Cow dung (to prepare slurry and demonstrate)
- Hapa Net to keep the harvested fishes
- Drag Net for fish harvesting
- 3-4 buckets to put the different species separately after the harvesting

Sl No.	Name of the Fish species	Weight of the species (Average) in gm
1	Catla(8)	87
2	Rohu(10)	122
3	Common carp(1)	598

Observations:

The weight of the fish indicated less growth of the fish.

The reasons may include

- lack of proper management (post-stocking management & sufficient feeding)
- Presence of predator fish (as the periphery of the pond was not strengthened and observed holes)
- Fear of theft
- Less number of stocking
- Poor survivability

Common carp growth was favorable in 9 months (Carps can reach 0.6 to 1.0 kg body weight within one season in a composite culture system). The reason may include that it is flexible in feed habits(Omnivorous & bottom feeder) and can switch to the alternate diets available. It feeds on benthic worms, insects (including their larvae and pupae),micro invertebrates, tender parts of plants.
The farmers were shown locally available feed types i.e. Rice bran, Coconut Oil Cake, GNOC, and Sunflower oil cake for identification. The broadcasting method of feeding practices were demonstrated on the pond. Dry, powdered feeds can be broadcast onto the pond surface.

A detailed discussion on learnings of field visits followed by the narration by Ms. Priyanka on the importance of soil and water quality and management measures

in fish culture, pre-post stocking managements, suitable pond conditions, harvest, selection of feed type, fish species & fish growth.

Mr Damodar briefed on the essence of Record Keeping to check the periodic growth, and details of fish and bund culture by showing the record keeping cards. Eco Intensification

A few Videos on the method to acclimatize the fish seed before stocking, netting, the best practices, and good harvest were displayed.

Mr Narsing has explained on the 5-layer model of eco-intensification of the farm pond and plantations on the bunds. Farm ponds can save crops during dry spells and farmers can irrigate less water-consumed crops like Millet and vegetables during rabi season.

At the end of the program, Mr Naidu collected farmers' feedback, the list of issues was noted down and appropriate measures were discussed by the expert.

The training program ended with a vote of thanks by Dr Vesavila.

Way forward

The GP Coordinators and district staff were briefed on the work plan to carry out the activities in consultation with the team. The pre-stocking management and pond preparation will be initiated before a month of stocking of fish fingerlings.

List of VAFs to be shared by Smt Bijaylaxmi and a WhatsApp group to be created with VAFs, Dept of Fisheries and WASSAN Internal team for further coordination on fisheries activities.

The management practices will be followed by the farmers. Regular monitoring and follow-up up to be ensured by the team.




(Sessions during training program)




Exposure visits to Eco-Farm pond, Garudaguda, Pedalabdu
(Fish harvesting & field demonstration)

(Group photo: Training program on “Fish Entreprises Development”)