**Baseline study for Fisheries Development in Telangana state**

**ANN – 6.1**

6.1 Policy suggestions for tank fisheries development

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| **Policy for tank development** | | |
| **⮚** | Access- Leasing / licensing policy | Changes in lease period from present 3+2 years to 10 years, common lease amount, conditional leasing, gender equity in access right to CPR. |
| **⮚** | Resource dev.- siltation, weed infestation, pollution etc | Convergence of institution- Mission Kakatiya, Irrigation, Forest departments; pollution control Board, Lake development Authority, Local panchayat; Facilitation and coordination by DOF; positioning of supportive schemes, one time grant support; Collective actions of FCS. |
| **⮚** | Resource expansion | Roping in of abandoned resources – coal pits, quarry tanks, water harvesting structures, resources developed under NHM, NMPS, NFDB and such other development schemes/programs to activities of fisheries and aquaculture. |
| **⮚** | Non usage of production enhancing input | Promotion of low input based fish culture activities in tanks and small reservoirs wherever feasible- use of low cost inputs viz. agricultural by products i.e.,rice bran, oil cakes; green manures/ crop residues, substrates in support of periphyton growth, organic manures etc. |

* **6.1.1 Quality fish production and rearing**

***Fish seed resources and supply***

* There is need to create integrated fish seed production clusters.
* Encourage and involve in decentralized seed production and networking for seed supply to reach remote areas through support from local government institutions.
* Farmers to have access to high quality fish seed available at the appropriate time for stocking. This will ensure the smooth flow of products and value along the entire aquaculture value chain.
* It is also important that local government line agencies place greater emphasis on providing services and focus on the poor isolated farmers or those who do not have access to private hatcheries to ensure that they are not marginalized and have access to quality seed.
* The bulk of existing production is from omnivorous and herbivorous species, both indigenous and exotic species. There is a preference in the region for indigenous species, such as Murrels, medium carps and this should be supported by brood stock management strategies that preserve genetic diversity.
* Encourage private participation in seed growing in mandals in the district where the tanks are canal fed and suitable for fish seed rearing, establishing seed hub/seed villages.
* At present the seed production, rearing and supply is with the Govt and private people and PFCs, Women Matsya mitras and such organisations have no role to play. But these can have a role in marketing of seed by procuring from production centres and since they are all community based organisations and without any skill, proper training, hand holding and net working is necessary and DOF has to play a major role in this.
* The societies and private participation need to be encouraged to take up seed production and rearing on long run to totally internalize seed supply in a few years from now. DOF should play a supportive and facilitative roles, take up regulatory responsibilities of quality monitoring and supply, seed price and post supply services etc.

**Fish seed – policy considerations**

* In order to rope in more young members of FCS in to seed rearing activity and promote them as entrepreneurs there is need for level playing role by GOTS extending support and facilitation to the new seed production start ups
* “preference first approach in tender/bidding for seed supply to consortia of local seed growers involved in the start-up activity within mandal /district level.”
* Hand holding support for in bidding DOF tenders.
* Liberal consideration for pre qualification criteria in terms of value supply, farm size and infrastructure.
* There is need to give leverages on all this gaps for the local entrepreneurs coming up in recent years.
* Encourage even limited supply by way of linking them to local procurement and supply of DOF where ever needed.
* Promote Gender participation in the segment activities.

The Govt. of India, Department of AH, Dairy and Fisheries has issued guide lines for Fish seed certification and accreditation system for different species in India. Fisheries being a state subject, the govt. can adopt these guide lines for developing a Fish seed policy in the future with necessary modifications to suit the local demands through a committee formed by the Govt.

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| * Conversion of wetlands for construction of fish seed rearing farms where ever demand arises from private entrepreneurs; Exclusive support for promotion of fish seed rearing in feasible non conventional water bodies for better returns at the expenses of livelihood loss due to wetland degradation. * Govt. may consider aquaculture activities including seed production and seed rearing on par with agriculture and provide free power to aquaculture sector also. * Most of the private seed farms are not registered with the state department and not availing any benefits thus are not accountable to state. There is scope to bring them into the state seed production network through registration and technical handholding apart from extending several facilitative services to them. * There is need to position fish seed certification guide lines in place for the seeds produced by the Govt. agency or those procured and sold or supplied by private seed growers and discipline the ongoing process of seed supply. * Need to initiate process of certification of seed by a third party before supply. * Position appropriate checks and control on unscrupulous dealers/ agents. * Monitor of seed inflow from various channels and sources need attention for brining required transparency, accountability and traceability. * Provisions are to be made to existing Acts or positioning of comprehensive Legal action with stringent provisions to punish the errant suppliers and ensure compensations to fishers in the event of activity failures and fish production loss. |

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| **6.1.2 Aquaculture**  The proposed policy on support for farming pangasius and tilapia in ponds constructed under NHM program of horticulture department/ similar other programs viz. NMPS etc would motivate agriculture/ horticulture farmers to take diversify to aquaculture activities and improve their Income; promote recycling of bio waste generated within integration system for better synergy and complimentary benefits. This policy would also promote poultry and livestock production and raise income levels of small fishermen. Convergence of schemes of other line departments will have complementary impact.  **Suggestions:** Initial focus shall be given to promote farming of fish species preferred by the consumers and have high market demand/absorption viz., crps (composite/ integrated fish farming system), Murrels and Prawns (under mono/ poly culture systems.  Input subsidy support need to be on water spread area basis, farming system and species farmed.  The proposed policy on Cage fish farming with Priority in support to irrigation project affected families, followed by fishermen and also provision made for the participation of private entrepreneurs is an encouraging move towards enhancing reservoir productivity. As the activity is more commercial in nature, feed based, and technology focused, warrants for high capital cost to start with and also operational cost mainly to purchase fish feed, the proposed policy need modification.  **Suggestions.** The community focused cage farming need to have better financial support of up to 90% subsidy on capital cost and also on operational expenses. The handholding support need to be extended for minimum 3 years period till they develop confidence and achieve financial stability. Participation of private entrepreneurs could be encouraged by providing attractive sops in the initial phase till they get established with proven success. The DOF also need to have exclusive focused extension and promotional activities in support of this new farming system.  Approaches of contract/partnership farming between members of FCS, private entrepreneurs/corporate under facilitation of DOF need emphasis in the policy. The proposed subsidy support need to be more lucrative in the beginning (60-70% on infra and operational cost to start with and later gradually reduced to 40-50%) as the segment is in initial phase of development with many questions unanswered and limited case studies of economic success. The period of support including technology hand holding etc. to the segment could be for a minimum pdriod of 3-4 years to attain desired stability.  As the present activity of cage fish farming is mainly centered on pangasius and to some extent on tilapia, where in, both the species have limited market demand and volume absorption compared to most preferred carp fish in domestic market. The focus in policy need to be on processing and value addition, product development, ready -to -eat and ready- to -cook products and variants. |