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

**ANN - 3.9**

Summary points on Fishermen Cooperative Societies, DFCS, Federation and women in fisheries

* Fisheries activities in the state are mainly carried out through community based institutional system.
* Fishermen Cooperative Societies (FCS) as one of the important grass-root level institutions for the development of sector activities.
* The DOF targeted development of both fisher community and resources under the Co operative movement involving other stakeholders also who are functioning at different levels as partners in sector growth process and progress
* These societies are extended with a number of benefits like exclusive allotment of government tanks on lease, licensing of selected developed reservoirs to fishers for fishing to meet their livelihood supply of fish seed, leasing of reservoirs to FCS, subsidized supply of fishing nets, Boats, mopeds, Pick up vans, of late support for cage fish farming etc.
* In the state, there are as many as 4001 cooperative societies, with enrolled member strength of 2.87 lakh. They comprise 3595 Primary Fishermen cooperative societies with 2.59 lakh members.
* The state has 400 Fisher women cooperative societies with 22702 members and also 666 women groups identified as Matsya Mitra’s involving actively in fish marketing and 6 Fishermen Marketing Societies with 3529 members.
* The FCS are managing all the fisheries activities under different arrangements i.e., (i) Direct involvement in stocking, watch and ward (ii) direct harvesting and marketing. This arrangement is working with mutual understanding barring few weaknesses. The PFCS resource development operations and handling of issues constraining development of allocated resources is highly unregulated.

**District fishermen cooperative societies**

* The DFCS are District unions of primary cooperative societies and their mandate is to provide necessary help and support FCS which are their constituents and represent them at Federation level.
* In each old District, there is one DFCS. The newly created districts do not have such District level institution but are attached to older districts.

**Telangana State Fishermen’s Cooperative Societies Federation Ltd.**

* This Apex body of fishermen cooperatives and DFCS is federated at state level by promoting Federation by the Govt of Telangana.
* At present the Federation is operating at Hyderabad and mainly concentrating on marketing of fish. It has set up 5 retail markets, 4 mobile vending units and a Fish canteen.
* The NCDC project of the DOF is proposed to be implemented through the Federation with active participation of DFCS in routing the benefits to the members of PFCS.

**Summary points on women in fisheries**

* The contribution of Women to sector activities is estimated as substantial resulting in generation of additional employment within sector.
* The MMs are mainly women Groups and are localized in their operations. These MMGs prepare their micro business plan and take up income generating schemes for improving their economic condition.
* Group is handling substantial volume of fish for marketing and thus facilitating channelization of fish from producer to consumer.
* On an average, a fish marketing woman sells anywhere between 25 to 40 kgs of fish in a day if it is a semi-urban market while this quantity goes up in metros where average sale may go up to 50 kg/day.