**ANN – 6.2**

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

Open Area Fish Farming- pen fish culture

Pen fish culture can be operated in the marginal areas of the large water bodies through net barricading and could be considered as an eco-friendly type as it does not interfere with other activities or pollute the environment. Further the system ensures higher survival rate and better yield.

Fish farming in Pen/enclosure systemcould be promotedinitially on an exploratory approach mainly to support promotion of input based pen aquaculture utilizing available water bodies viz., long seasonal and perennial tanks, peripheries/ shore regions of reservoirs, irrigation canals etc that were traditionally used only for fishing. Emphasis of the activity is mainly on community resource management, with thrust on transition from resource entitlement approach to an entrepreneurial one for poverty alleviation, enhancement of livelihood and employment opportunities to fisher residing around the resource; enhance livelihoods support through sustainable fisheries and aquaculture technologies.

**Suggested Key strategies for implementation are**

* Sensitization and awareness creation by DOF staff to fishermen households inhabiting / residing adjacent to selected resource catchment on the new initiative of the department
* Participatory identification of interested fishers of the village as beneficiaries of the program
* Positioning of exclusive Pen Fish Culture (PFC) Mastya Mitra a voluntary youth for each unit nominated among the beneficiary group
* Training and capacity building of the beneficiaries (five days duration) on the scheme components, roles and responsibilities, implementation protocols, improved farming technologies in support of enhanced fish production, productivity and economic gains; anticipated fish production; income and profits, other benefits
  + Continued handholding support at the grass root level for an end –to- end issues of production chain (seed, feed, technology, and disease & water quality management, harvesting and marketing facilitation) through sensitizing them on the simplified procedures
  + On- site technical support on better input management, production, fish harvest & handling
* Facilitation to form informal groups of beneficiaries (other than members of Registered Societies) to promote collective action in management of production system, procurement of seed, feed, other inputs in support of better bargaining power at all levels including marketing.

**Program Specifics: Unit area for support could be initially for 2 ha/ individual with a unit cost of Rs. 3-4 lakh. The DOF support could be extended for infra (**Bamboo or Galvanized Iron Poles, Nylon Nets of 200 m length and 5m width of 45 Ply, 210D, 25 mm mesh size, cement blocks for net bottom fixing etc **. unit cost of Rs.3 lakh ) and for input support (**lime, cleaner, fertilizers and manure, fish seed feed and health care products etc. unit **cost Rs. One lakh);** No. of beneficiaries/Group of reservoir pen could be 10-20 (Av. 15 No); subsidy support could be up to 80-90%. Technical: , **Pre stocking :** land levelling, liming, repeated netting for removal of weed fishes and predators, application of cleaner solution for insect control, manure application (cow dung). **Stocking:** Fingerlings of Indian major carps, seed size: 10-15 g (preferred), SD : 1000-1500; **Post stocking**: periodic application of manure, limited feeding (about one ton/unit) –rice bran, limited oil cake etc; **Rearing period:** Depending on water availability (6 to more than 12 months depending on water usage for irrigation/ drinking/ other activities. **Anticipated Fish production:** 2-2.5 tons/ha; **Benefit Sharing**: Distributed among the members in accordance to their participation.