

Key Findings

62.36%

Estimated Survival Percentage

(Total prawn harvested + estimated leftover prawn)
Estimated no. of prawns survived 3,86,640 Nos
against stocked quantity of 6,20,000 Nos)

₹69,962

Increase in average additional income

Average additional income earned by fisherman was Rs. 69,962/-. Reportedly, each fisherman income ranged from Rs. 50,000/- to 2,50,000/-.

84 grams

Average weight of harvested Prawn

90%

Reduced migration of fishers

Fishers, who went on seasonal migration during off season, have stopped going outside village for livelihood due to the increased income from Prawn stocking.

- Middlemen's intervention in seed supply and marketing is no more. Now, Fishermen Cooperative Society members are managing the entire process and reaping the total benefits which earlier used to go to the intermediaries.
- Regular guidance and supervision from the Departmental staff enabled fishermen to gain profits.

Issues / Areas to be addressed

- The marketing members faced with quality issues from buyers in the wholesale markets like denying uniform price for lesser quality prawns.
- Fishermen are having required skill for catching prawn. Still, they need training on post harvest management.
- They were not having appropriate nets which resulted in more labour per unit of effort.

- Out of 165 registered members in the Society, about 50% of the fishermen were engaged in the activity on regular basis and rest were not involved.
- Although members of the Society are making additional income at individual level, Society as an entity is not getting any share from the revenue generated.
- This model sustains as long as State Government takes up stocking on 100% grant basis. The sustainability of the intervention has to be looked into after Govt. support is withdrawn.
- Details of purchase and sales were noted in simple books and not in the records of the society.

Recommendations

- A sustainable model (beyond being a Government supported 100% grant scheme) shall be worked out for the complete supply chain from Prawn juvenile stocking to marketing by making the model Fishermen Cooperative Society centric.
- The Society shall get fund from the profits earned by the members to continue stocking on their own once government withdraws this activity.
- Fishermen need to be provided with the appropriate nets on subsidy basis.
- Technical training need to be provided to the fishermen on catching prawn, storage, processing, marketing, management of the society, etc.
- Proper records need to be put in place with training on book keeping. Dedicated person from the society shall be made in-charge to record sales in the registers.
- Measures need to be taken for motivating uncovered fishermen and ensure that they too join the activity and reap the benefits.
- Further steps need to be taken for cohesive functioning of the Society.

Members of the FCS expressed strong desire to continue the intervention of stocking of prawn juvenile along with fish seed by Telangana Fisheries Department.



Govt. of Telangana
Department of Fisheries



Sri. K. Chandrashekhara Rao
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Telangana

Prawn Juvenile Stocking in Pocharam Reservoir during 2017-2018



Case Study



Telangana State Fishermen Cooperative Societies Federation Ltd.
Hyderabad

PRAWN JUVENILE STOCKING IN POCHARAM RESERVOIR- PROVEN SOURCE OF BIG INCOME FOR FISHER FAMILIES

"Our only source of livelihood is fishing. Stocking of prawn juveniles in Pocharam Reservoir by the Fisheries Department came as a boon to us assuring minimum income of Rs. 50,000 per fisher family involved in harvesting and marketing Prawns"... says fishermen of Pocharam Fishermen Cooperative Society (FCS), Medak and Kamareddy Districts.

Profile

The Fishermen Cooperative Society, Pocharam was formed in 1974 and consists of 165 members in the Society who are eking out livelihood from the Pocharam Reservoir which was constructed in 1922 with a water spread area of 1644 ha. The members belong to six surrounding villages viz., Pocharam, Shetpallisangareddy, Parumalla & Polkampet of Kamareddy district and Rajipet and Burugupalli of Medak district.



Background

The fishermen of Pocharam first experienced stocking of prawn in the reservoir from 2001 to 2005 when intermediaries released 1.5 lakh juvenile prawns every year collected from Godavari River near Bobbarlanka with a buyback arrangement and paid them an average price of Rs. 80/- per kilogram. The intermediaries were discontinued due to lack of cooperation from the members of the Society.

Again in 2011, other intermediaries from Maharashtra stocked about 12 lakh prawn juveniles each year, collected from Narmada River having predominant population of scampi until 2015 and gave feeding. Though it was a success, the fishermen got only labour charges and profits had gone to the intermediaries. In this model, the middlemen were only benefitted and hence it was discontinued by the fishermen. With insufficient income from fish alone, some of these fishermen migrated out of village to earn livelihood.

Intervention Of Fisheries Department, Telangana

While fishermen were struggling with minimal income and were under distress, introduction of hatchery sourced Scampi juveniles in 2017-18 on pilot basis by the state Government through Fisheries Department came as a ray of hope for better living among the fisher community. In the year 2017-18, 6.2 lakh scampi juveniles of 1½ inch size or more costing Rs.7,92,600/- were stocked during October, 2017 in Pocharam reservoir.



Prawn Juveniles

Stocking in Reservoir

The managing committee of the Pocharam Fishermen Cooperative Society was made responsible for managing, harvesting and marketing the produce. The Department officials have conducted series of awareness programmes and trainings to the active fishermen of the society in harvesting, handling and marketing.

Procurement & Marketing Arrangements

Three members from the Society; Laxminarayana (Vice President), Shivaiah (Secretary) and Bikshapati (Director), were given the responsibility of marketing the produce in Nizamabad fish market & Musheerabad market (Hyderabad). They collected harvested prawn from the fishermen from three different locations (landing centers) around the Reservoir. Weighing balances, Ice boxes (@60 kg storage capacity) and Tarpaulin covers were arranged at centers for procurement and storage. Harvested Prawn was graded based on its weight and quality. One vehicle was hired for collection of harvested prawn in ice boxes from all collection points and transported to the above markets.

Harvesting Prawn

Harvesting of prawn started in March, 2018 and was at its peak in the months of April & May, 2018 during when the total quantity collected was about 400 to 500 kgs per day. The per day catch per fisherman ranged from 2 kgs to 87 kgs.

Reportedly, about 80 fishermen were regularly involved in prawn harvest and another 20 fishermen occasionally. Overall 29 tonnes of prawn was harvested which comes to about 90% of the survived juveniles and 10% could not be harvested because of its benthic nature (bottom living habit) and rise in levels of water in the monsoon season.



PAYMENTS AND INCOME

Payments to the fishermen were made on weekly basis. Highest rate paid was Rs. 220/- kg for "A" grade (less than 20 prawns per kg) and lowest was Rs. 130/- for "B" grade (more than 20 prawns per kg).

Total Prawn harvested	:	29 tonnes
Average farm gate price gone to the fishermen	:	Rs. 193 per kg
Total income	:	Rs. 55,97,000/-
No. of active fishermen engaged in prawn catch on full time	:	80
Average additional income per fisher	:	Rs. 69,962/-

