

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON SUPPLY OF FISH SEED

1. Why does 35-40 mm fish seed is proposed in seasonal tanks?

I. Technical Issues:

- A. The seasonal tanks go dry and water is received afresh during monsoon season and the presence of predatory fishes like murrels, cat fishes, eels, etc will not be there. Therefore, the chances of predation are nil.
- B. These tanks receive lot of nutrients from the catchment area and food is available in plenty during the monsoon period. The seed of 35-40 mm will attain the size of 80-100 mm within a fortnight.
- C. One of the most suitable species for seasonal tanks is common carp and it constitutes 25% of the total fish seed proposed to be supplied. Normally 1 to 1.5 inches of seed of common carp is available in the market and beyond that size, the chances of survival in nurseries or rearing ponds become thinner and thinner day by day and, therefore, the farms don't keep them beyond this size. But it survives in tanks or culture ponds.
- D. The fluctuations in physical (turbidity, temperature) and chemical parameters (pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Carbon dioxide and Ammonia, hardness, alkalinity) are very less vertically and horizontally and seed of 35-40 mm can withstand and survive easily.

II. Logistics Issues:

- E. Another advantage of 35-40 mm fish seed is that it can be packed in polythene bags by filling oxygen gas and can be transported easily without incurring mortality for 8 to 10 hours. Whereas the seed of 80-100 mm cannot be carried in polythene bags and the rate of mortality will be very high when it is packed in polythene bags.
- F. The average size of seasonal tanks is less than 10 ha. and most of them don't have approach roads. For such tanks, supplying of fish seed of 80-100 mm directly to the tanks becomes difficult and one truck with a load of 80,000 to 1,00,000 fish seed has to be moved to 8 to 20 locations and it takes 8 to 12 hours. But the tanks last in the row will be adversely affected as the mortality of seed becomes very high before and after stocking and the beneficiaries get a raw deal in the process.
- G. Such category of tanks is around 22,000 in number against 2,000 perennial tanks. Considering the strength of the technical staff of the department, maximum no. of tanks can be covered in a day is 10 if 80-100 mm fish seed is proposed. In each district it takes 90 supplying days. By the time last tanks are covered, half of the water recedes and productivity gets affected adversely.

2. Why does 80-100 mm fish seed is proposed in reservoirs and perennial tanks?

The reservoirs and perennial sources have substantial populations of predatory fishes like murrels, cat fishes, eels, etc and the selected must have the adequate energy to escape from them. The fluctuations in physical and chemical parameters are very high vertically and horizontally in the water body. Under such situations, seed of 80-100 mm can only withstand and survive easily.

3. What are the quality parameters of fish seed?

S. No.	Specification	Result
1	Activity	Actively swimming
2	Feeding	Readily accept and eat feed
3	Scales	Shining and healthy
4	Body	Clean and without Ectoparasites
5	Muscles	Thick and without injuries
6	Fin Condition	Fins should be complete without deformities
7	Health Status	The Fish seed should be free from all diseases and Ectoparasites
8	Fish Seed size	35-40 mm for seasonal tanks and 80-100 mm for perennial tanks

4. Which species of fish seed and ratios will be given and why?

The species of Catla, Rohu and Mrigala with a size of 80-100 mm in the ratio of 40:50:10 respectively will be given for perennial tanks and reservoirs. For seasonal tanks, Catla, Rohu and common carp with a size of 35-40 mm in the ratio of 50:25:25 respectively will be given for seasonal tanks. These species grow very fast, hardy in nature, compatible to each other, feed in different parts of the water column and are non predatory. They forage on planktons present in the water.

5. What will be the expected survival and output?

The survival will be around 50 to 60% and the average growth of survived fish is 600 to 750 gms in perennial tanks and 400 to 500 gms in seasonal tanks provided water is available for a minimum period of 6 months from the day of stocking in seasonal tanks and 9 months or more in perennial tanks.