

SUCCESS STORY ON INTEGRATED APPROACH OF FISH CULTURE- COMPOSITE FISH CULTURE

By: Smt Banylla Kharbamon SMS (Horticulture)
Smt J.K. Marak SMS (Fisheries)

Introduction

The farmers are ignorant about the different species of carps. They are unable to identify different fish species because of which they face problems when it comes to purchasing the desired seeds and are often cheated by vendors as they took advantage of their ignorance by selling them diseased fingerlings. The farmer's rear fish purchased from vendors and mostly they were often of one species which gives very less yield, low returns and was unable to utilize the area of the pond.

KVK intervention

Hence KVK Jaintia hills introduced the composite fish culture technology in the NICRA village Umjalasiaw to provide farmers with a good yield and higher return. The technology developed for fish culture in which more than one type of compatible fish species are cultured simultaneously for better production is Composite Fish Culture. The species used in composite culture includes 6 species of carps (3 indigenous and 3 exotic fishes) viz. Catla, Rohu, Mrigal (indigenous carp), Silver carp, Grass carp and Common carp (exotic carps). Each fish species has a certain feed preference, which is related to the position of the fish in the pond (eg. Surface feeder, column feeder and bottom feeder). This technology enables to get maximum fish production from a pond or a tank through utilization of available fish food organisms in all the natural niches, supplemented by artificial feeding.

Output and Outcome

Shri Likshon Rymbai a prominent farmer of the NICRA village Umjalasiaw had a 0.1 ha pond but used to rear only one species of fish procured from local vendors. With the start of the NICRA village, he was provided with the different species of fingerlings by KVK Jaintia hills. Yield achieved was 150kg of fish with a net return of Rs. 15000 and B:C ratio of 2:1 as compared to 30kg of fish with a net return of Rs. 2000 and B:C ratio of 1.5:1 from traditional practice.

Impact

With the intervention of technology by KVK in the village, the farmers have noticed a huge difference in production from that of traditional practice. More over the farmers could sell locally produced fishes for a good price as they fetch higher price than the imported once. The intervention of this improved technology has not only resulted in improving production but also nutritional security and socio-economic conditions of resource-poor farmers by providing protein rich food and income.



Image: Pond management in composite fish culture



Releasing of fingerlings in Composite fish culture pond



Composite fish culture pond



Fish harvested from Composite fish culture pond



Fish harvested from Composite fish culture pond