

**Project Report on
Financial Assistance to Rural Entrepreneurs/SHGs
for Fishery Development with Hand Holding Program
Under MISING AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL**

Department of Fishery

Introduction: Since the dawn of civilization, aquaculture has been playing a major role in nutrition and rural economy and Assam, with its excellent sub-tropical climate for development of fishery is gifted with numerous natural water body and soil condition suitable for aquaculture.

The MAC area, although plagued by flood and erosion problem, holds tremendous potentiality for development of fishery as an important means of livelihood owing to its abundance of natural water bodies, ponds and beels. Over the years, the state Govt. under various schemes has provided financial assistance and incentives to farmers for digging of fishery ponds and taking up of fish-culture enterprise.

But, due to lack of motivation, work culture, knowledge and skill about fish-culture, a large number of such enterprises have failed in MAC area and such ponds have been lying idle. The MAC is drawing a policy – first, to develop all the natural water bodies in to community fish farm and secondly, to renovate the possible number of homestead ponds by providing financial assistance combined with on-hand training for knowledge and skill on fish farming.

An amount of Rs. 71.40 lakh has been earmarked in the AOP 2013-14 under Fishery department to provide financial assistance to 340 poor farmers for renovation of their existing fishery pond.

Objective of the Scheme:

1. To provide on-hand training for practical knowledge and skill on fish farming to poor farmers.
2. To assist farmers for renovating their non-performing fishery ponds to productive ones.
3. To set up models in villages having potentiality for fishery as an alternative means of livelihood and thereby to attract more farmers.

Project Implementation Strategy:

Implementation Committee: The Project will be implemented with a hand holding approach rather than giving away the assistance and leaving the beneficiary on

his/her own. A Central Implementation Committee with the following Members will guide and monitor the entire implementation;

1. Executive Councillor i/c Fishery Department, MAC, Chairman
2. Principal Secretary
3. District Fishery Officer, Dhemaji
4. Representative from a reputed NGO
5. General Member of MAC: 2
6. Junior Engineer, MAC

Selection of Beneficiary: Beneficiaries will be selected and recommended by the General Members of the MAC by holding Gram Sabha or equivalent meeting. Beneficiary must belong to BPL category with preference being given to educated unemployed youths.

Sharing of Project Costs: The Mising Autonomous Council is opposed to the policy of giving 100% assistance or subsidy to a beneficiary and, holds a view that such an act is detrimental to the very object of promoting a self-reliant rural entrepreneur. Therefore, the beneficiary, out of his own effort, must bear a part of the project cost. The beneficiary shall have to take the first step for MAC to assist him.

Training & Motivation: Most of the homestead pond fisheries in MAC area have failed because of lack of knowledge and skill on fish farming. After putting the fish seeds, mostly of small ones in to pond, the farmers sit idle with a dream of reaping a good harvest after 6-7 months. They are unaware about the water condition and fertility of the pond, value of fish feed, the number of fish seeds etc. Therefore, first the farmers shall be given on-hand training followed by renovation, liming and fertilizing the pond and then putting carried over fish seeds so that the gestation period is shortened and farmers get desired result within a short time. The farmers will be made to understand the value of fish feed.

Monitoring & Evaluation: The Implementation Committee shall be responsible for visiting the locations, interact with the beneficiaries, evaluate their performance, identify the problems and critical gap areas and intervene as and where necessary. The Committee will submit a Report to the Council on the basis of which future similar schemes will be formulated incorporating important recommendations of the Committee.

Estimate for Renovation and Fish Culture in a Homestead Pond (1 Bigha area)

Sl. No	Items	Quantity	Unit	Rate (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)	Contribution
1	Jungle/ Stubble Clearance, ploughing etc.	15	MD	167.00	2,505.00	By Beneficiary
2	De-silting/ Depth increasing/ Bank Raising by Excavation	100	MD	167.00	16,700.00	By Beneficiary
3	Liming	65	Kg.	20	1,300.00	By MAC
4	Organic Manure (Cow dung)	5	Qntl	375	1,875.00	By MAC
5	Inorganic Fertilizer: Urea @ 5kg/Bigha four times	25	kg	15	375.00	By MAC
6	Inorganic Fertilizer: SSP @6.6kg/Bigha/ five times	33	kg.	15	495.00	By MAC
7	Carried Over Fish Seed: (Catla, Rohu, Mrigal @ 4:3:3) 50-100gm size (Catla 280 Nos, Rohu 210 Nos. and Mrigal 210 Nos.)	750	Nos.	5	3,750.00	By MAC
8	Fish Feed: Recommended feeding rate 5-6% of body weight up to 500gm size then; 3.5% of body weight up to 1000 gm size	800	kg.	12.5	10,000.00	By MAC
9	Net and implements				2,000.00	By MAC
10	Miscellaneous: Training, Transport etc				995.00	By MAC
	Total:				39,995.00	
	Beneficiary's Contribution:				19,205.00	
	Contribution by MAC:				20,790.00	

CONCLUSION:

Experiences elsewhere have shown that production of about 1800 kg/ha/yr could be achieved from small seasonal homestead ponds through integrated use of locally available biological resources. This implies an excellent opportunity for improving the rural economy through the development of small-scale fish culture enterprises. In this scheme, emphasis has been put on improving the knowledge and skills of the farmers and their farming practices so that their enterprises do not fail and once set off on the right track they can run on their own.

Countersigned by

Prepared by

Principal Secretary
Mising Autonomous Council
Gogamukh :: Dhemaji

Planning Officer
Mising Autonomous Council
Gogamukh :: Dhemaji