



# FISH HARVESTING DAY COMMUNITY MANAGED FISHERIES

*Fisheries for Nutrition and Livelihoods in Tribal Areas of Andhra Pradesh*

**Venue of the Event:** CR-ZBNF Cluster - Satrullapeta  
Hiramamandalam Mandal, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## **CONTEXT OF THE EVENT**

Fish harvesting day was jointly organized by CAVS and WASSAN in one of the Cr ZBNF clusters of Sastrullapeta, Hiramandalam, Srikakulam District on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The RNGO and FNGOs have made an effort to enhance the fish production through building capacities of farmers on package of practices in 110 waterspread area of 106 ponds in Seethampeta, Hiramandalam and Veeragattam Mandals of Srikakulam district. The specific objective is to enhance fish productivity through ZBNF approach and build multiple securities for tribal farmers. Upscale the intervention for 1000 acres under Climate Resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming (CRZBNF) Program.

The initiation began in September 2017. The three Indian Major Carp fingerlings released in tanks & ponds with support of District administration and department of fisheries, Srikakulam district.

**Table - I**

Mandal with ZBNF Clusters	No of Ponds	No of Villages	No of HHs	Period of fingerlings released
Seethampeta (Pedarama)	22	24	515	18.9.2017-21.9.2017
Veeragattam (Veeragattam)	15	6	312	15.8.2017-20.8.2017
Hiramandalam (Anthakapalli & Sastrullapeta)	42	20	843	18.9.2017-21.9.2017
LN Peta (SK Baleru)	27	6	110	18.9.2017-21.9.2017
	<b>106</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1780</b>	

As part of this initiation WASSAN trained local CRPs and farmers on Package of practices. Fingerlings released on second week of September 2017. Growth rate of fish was recorded by CRPs and closely monitored the ponds and farmers who are following ZBNF approach. Department of Fisheries supported for 800 fingerlings per pond/ one acre water spread area. Size of fingerlings were 60mm at the time of release.



In the above context, WASSAN and CAVS planned to organize field day to discuss about the results with other farmers. District collector, Srikakulam was attended as chief guest to this event along with him line department officers like DD fisheries, ATMA PD, KVK Coordinator were

participated. 150 farmers from 4 Mandals were attended the event. Shri Ravindra, Sunny, Narsing Rao, Patro and Bidhya were participated from WASSAN and Ms Bhudevi and Khailash from CAVS, Mr Sankar participated from ARTS.



### OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT

- ✓ Sharing and exchange of farmers experiences on rearing fish through ZBNF approach
- ✓ Growth performance of various types of fish
- ✓ Based on the farmers experiences standardize the protocol for rainfed inland fisheries.
- ✓ Preparation of Strategic action plan for up scaling the fisheries in ZBNF clusters.

CAVS and WASSAN facilitated the event.

### FISH HARVEST

Farmers harvested the fish of which they reared in Gundamcheruvu (GPS Location -18.72213, 83.942155) since October 2017. Measured the fish weight with digital weighing scale in front of district collector and DD fisheries and PD ATMA. As per the farmers opinion growth performance of grasscarp was better than other species. Farmers measured that 765gm weight obtained in seven months period. Katla was recorded as 400gm and Rahoo was 285gm.

Farmers opined that if fingerlings or advance fingerlings released in July/ August then farmers can harvest around 1kg weight of each grass carp by April and 0.6 to 0.75kg of Katla each.

Farmers says that there was no price differences between species and grass carp has more demand for local consumption. For transporting longer distance katla and common carp are ideal species than grass carp.



Dr. Sunny (WASSAN) has shared about the outcomes in various other ponds and overall progress of the intervention to the District collector.



District collector promised that scale up the fisheries intervention as much as possible tribal area. He opined that we need ensure to increase

the fish consumption locally rather than marketing. Building nutritional security among tribal women and children is our primary objective so fish production must be scaled up in the district.

DC said that around 3 crore spawn released and culturing in few selected ponds which are ready to supply as fingerlings by end of July.

Collector asked to make indent to DD fisheries for fingerlings. Farmers said that last time the size of fingerlings supplied by Depart of fisheries was too small and supplied in end of September so due to that farmers had missed 2 month period (July-August) which is crucial time for seasonal ponds to grow fish.

Shri Ravindra-WASSAN suggested that if we consider 50 acre waterspread area as a unit then 10 farmers can raise fingerlings in their ponds to supply locally instead depending on external sources- farmers who has perennial water bodies can come forward as entrepreneur to culture spawn into fingerlings particularly from months of April to July. Feed can be made locally by establishing processing unit as entrepreneurship mode- one unit per 50 acre waterspread area or cluster.

There are about 160 water bodies of 485 acre waterspread has been geo tagged and farmers are ready to get train on package of practices in fish rearing.

DD Fisheries said that celebrating fish harvesting day is first time and there is infrastructure available at KVK for conducting master farmers trainings.

PD ATMA shared about budget availability for tribal livelihoods, fisheries program can be taken up where ever is feasible in tribal area.

District collector and his line department officials and farmers had fish lunch together.

Tribal women entrepreneur who established desi backyard poultry mother unit supplied chicks 5 each to 6 women in her cluster in front of district collector.

Ms Bhudevi - CAVS thanked the all the participants and supporters of the event.

## WAY FORWARD

WASSAN has identified a total of 485 acre waterspread area so far and data to be compiled from 5 clusters.

- ❑ Plan for entrepreneurship model- for culturing spawn into fingerlings
- ❑ Select ponds for fingerlings development
- ❑ Complete the collecting data from other clusters.
- ❑ Make indent for pre fingerlings to raise them in selected ponds / entrepreneurs.

## "A SMALL TRIBAL HAMLET STORY ON FISHERIES"

In the Sastullapeta village belongs to Gulumuru GP of Hiramandalam Mandal of Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh. There is a common water body known as GundamCheruvu which is about 7 acre common tank approx exist in the village.

- **GPS Location** -18.72213, 83.942155. Above tank is seasonal water dry in April/May however farmers use tank water to save their crops during dryspells in kharif. The department of water is 5 feet in rainy and during March/April goes down to 2-3 feet.
- **Initiation of fish culture by community:** 4 years ago, the community of the village was used to lease out the tank to others for fish culture purposes and GPs uses the money for community rituals which had given by lessee, however since 2014, villagers had started rearing fish in above tank on their own.
- **In the year 2014-15:** Community released seed stock about 6000 fingerlings procured from local vendor worth of 10 thousand and community never followed feed practices after release of fingerlings hence they got only 130kg of when they harvested in May 2015 villagers used for self-consumption.
- **In the year 2015-16:** Community procured and released 8000 fingerlings in September 2015, local ITDA supplied 5000 fingerlings and 3000 fingerlings procured additionally from Local vendor. After release of fingerlings, they fed 30kg of rice bran for 3 times. In June 2017 they harvested 200Kgs of fish approx. They sold out 60kg of fish at Rs.100 per kg and earned Rs.6000 and the rest 100kg fish distributed among them.
- **In the year 2017-18:** On the date of 19th September 2017 the villagers seed stocked 7000 fingerlings (35mm size) with free of cost by the assistance of Srikakulam Fisheries department. In this year the villagers followed the package of practice under technical guidance of WASSAN and facilitated by CAVS local NGO.
- Followed **package of practices (PoP)** like application of manure 100kg/ 4 days interval community used old gunny bags which filled with manure were placed in 4 corners of the tank. 2 times Jeevamrutham (20 lts/ in each time) was also applied in the tank.
- **Results:** After followed by package of practices the fish size have been grown up. In trail nettings the growth of fish observed as follows:
  - At the time of release the size of the fingerlings were 35mm(19th September 2017)
  - On 10th November 2017: Average weight was 110 gms
  - On 21st December 2017: Average weight was 285 gms
  - On 15th January 2018: Average weight was 320 gms
  - On 18th February 2018: Average weight was 440 gms
  - On 23rd March 2018: Average weight was 510gms
  - On 27<sup>th</sup>April 2018: Grass carp weight was 645 gms