

## **CHAPTER-8**

### **VARIOUS POLICIES AND SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO SUSTAIN FISHERY SECTOR IN THE STATE**

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#### **8.0. Introduction:**

The Government of India has been trying to give importance on the development of fishery sector since the first Plan which provides much employment to the significant population of the rural area. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has been undertaking directly and through the state government various production, input supply and infrastructure, development programmes and welfare oriented schemes, formulating and initiating appropriate policies to increase the productivity in the fishery sector. The detail study has been examined on the perspectives of government policies and schemes for developing the fishery sector in the country or state which are explained in the following.

#### **8.1. Union Government Policy:**

The Union Government has made agriculture policy including with fishery sector in different plans. However the successive five year plans of India have set up some broad policies with regard to the production in the fisheries sector and investment in it. According to planer, policy maker of fishery sector, fishery is an important sector for agricultural diversification, food security, employment generation and export promotion. India's fish industry growth has accelerated reaching a total marine and fresh water fish production to about 8 million MT from 1990 to 2010. Special efforts have been made to promote extensive inland fish farming, modernize coastal fisheries and encourage deep sea fishing through joint ventures. For protection and overall development for fisheries the government framed several laws and

regulations. These are British era Indian fisheries Act 1897 which penalizes the killing of fish by poisoning water and by using explosives, the environment protection act 1986 for protecting the fisheries and environment, 1972 wild life protection act and in 1974 water prevention and control of pollution act.

The Union Government has been adopting various plans and programmes for the development of the fishery sector since the first plan. The main objectives of fishery development policies through different plans have been

- a. Improving the socioeconomic condition of fishermen
- b. Increasing the fish production of fishermen
- c. Employment generating and higher income
- d. Increase the per capita availability and consumption of fish
- e. Export promotion of fish

Especially the Government of India has been implementing some welfare programmes for fishermen. The two main important programmes are

- i. Development of Model fishermen Village (DMFV)
- ii. Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS)

Under the development of model fishermen village programme, the eligible fishermen in the fishery sector has been provided with basic amenities like drinking water, houses and commonplace for recreation and work. According to the scheme the respective States and UT's shall provide land for development of these amenities. The States governments look the following criteria while selecting beneficiaries for allotment of houses under the scheme:-

1. The beneficiary should be an active or hundred percent fisherman identified by the authority of State Government.
2. Preference should be given to the landless fishermen and the fishermen below poverty line.
3. Fishermen should be availed these facilities under the scheme.

Fishermen are insured for Rs.50000 (fifty thousand) in case of death or permanent disability and for Rs.25000 in case of partial disability. This scheme provides fishermen life coverage where fishermen contribute a small amount only

Rs.15 per year and other relevant contribution and subsidiaries are paid by the union and state government.

On the other hand the Union Government has been trying to growth the Indian fishery sector through several institutions of the country such as

- Ministry of agriculture
- Indian Council of Agriculture and Research (ICAR)
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI)
- Ministry of Commerce
- State Agricultural Universities.

. Moreover, many other agencies and organizations of the Union Government also supports for the development of fishery sector through some research activities and projects. These are

- Department of Ocean(DOD)
- Department of Biotechnology(DBT)
- Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- University Grant Commission and IIT& IIM ( **Report of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture**)

As a Union Government policy the Government of India constituted the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture for development the fishery sector in the country. It was establish in 2006 at Hyderabad. This board is an autonomous body. The NFDB has several principal objectives which are given in the following

- To develop and improve the production processing storage, transport and marketing of the products to capture and culture fisheries.
- To create employment.
- To increase the contribution of fish towards food and nutritional security
- To develop the research on fish and fisheries

- To apply the modern tools and provide modern infrastructure mechanisms for fisheries and ensure their effective management and optimum utilization.

**A. Central Plan Schemes:**

Recently the Government of India has implemented some important schemes under the central plan which is hundred percent central assistance schemes. These are mentioned in the following.

- Strengthening of Data base and information net working for Fisheries sector
- Introduction of Intermediate crafts of improved design
- Safety of Fishermen at Sea
- Development of post-harvest Infrastructure
- Enforcement of Marine Fisheries Regulation Act
- Promoting of Fuel efficient Environment friendly Fishing Practice Promotion of CNG/LPG driven Engine

**B. Centrally Sponsored Plan Schemes**

There are various centrally sponsored schemes for Development of Marine fisheries infrastructure & post-harvest operation where state and central share are rationally divided (State share: Central share)

- Safety of Marine Fishermen at sea (25:75)
- Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD Oil (25:75)
- Establishment of Fishing Harbour & fish landing centre (30:70)
- Development of Shore Base Facilities (25:75)
- Up-Gradation & Modernization of Fishing Harbour & Fish Landing Centre (25:75)
- Motorization of Traditional Craft (50:50)

**National Welfare scheme for Fishermen (State share: Central share)**

- Saving-cum-Relief fund (50:50)
- Group Accident Insurance for Fishermen (50:50)
- Fisheries Training and Extension (20:80)

- National welfare fund for Construction of low cost house (50:50)

**Development of Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture (State share: Central share)**

- Development of water logged Areas through FFDA (25:75)
- Development of fresh water aquaculture through FFDA (25:75)
- Integrated Development of Inland capture resources (Reservoir/Rivers) (25:75)
- Development of Brackish water Aquaculture through FFDA (25:75)
- Innovative Initiative capacity Building & Training (25:75) (**Directorate of fishery government of Assam**)

**8.2. State Government Policy:**

The state of Assam has 1500 SHG's actively involved in fisheries particularly in beel fisheries. In the state the SHG's, NGO's and cooperative societies of fishery sector have no actual data is available on ground level credit flow. According to the report of some banks like SBI and the AGVB had disbursed more than 120 cores during the year 2011-12 for different fisheries activities. As per estimates, the credit flow in fisheries of the state annually between 150 crors and 160 crores. This is 2.5 percent to 3 percent of the total agriculture credit extended by the banks or financial institutions. The financial institutions have been providing support to the fisheries for renovation of existing ponds, inputs for pisciculture, support for processing, fish culture in beel fisheries, boat, net and other integrated fishing equipment's etc.

In the state, NABARD has been practically playing its positive role for the improving the fisheries. Not only facilitating the credit flow but also it is guiding the financial institutions and entrepreneurs for development of the sector. It formulates some bankable model schemes for bankers and entrepreneurs. The model schemes are composite fish culture, paddy cum fish culture, ornamental fisheries, prawn farming etc. The NABARD has been able to train and sensitize many fish farmers from the district to panchayat level. Sometimes it has been conducting some awareness programme and workshops on fish culture. NABARD is prepared district level potential linked credit plans where it is able to provide good infrastructural facilities and it has been allocated Rs.220 crores to Rs.250 crores of credit flow in the state in a

year. In order to aid the bankers, farmers, NGO's and KVK's NABARD has also made some model and some bankable schemes. This model and schemes has also helped for improving the ground level credit flow under this sector.

In the state 29 numbers of major fish markets are established under the rural infrastructure development fund of NABARD. Moreover under the same scheme NABARD has been supporting to the beel fisheries development of the state government. Besides some financial assistance are extended to the state government for infrastructural development of the beel fisheries and fishermen.

NABARD tries to identify some infrastructural gaps for developing the fishery sector which are as under.

- Reclamation of derelict water bodies
- Running water fisheries
- Properly utilization of NFDB and FFDA schemes through bank finance
- Creation of employment through encouraging Self Help Groups, Non-Government Organization and cooperative societies.
- Expansion of fish markets and transport of fish and fishery products.
- Proper survey and Storage of data on fish production. **(Bist,2013)**

The state government has introduced several schemes among the fishermen i.e. "Matsya Jagaran-Ghare Ghare Pukhuri Ghare Ghare Maach", Selection of Matsya Mitra, Beneficiary Training etc. The main objectives of these schemes are

- Expansion of pond, tanks and low lying area with increase fish production.
- Encouraging the fish culture among the fishermen through implementing in the scheme "Ghare Ghare Pukhuri Ghare Ghare Maach",
- Providing nutritional security to the villagers or farmers and try to make self-sufficiency in fish production.

Moreover there are various important schemes of the government for developing the fishery sector in the state .These important schemes are mentioned in the following.

Under the blue revolution scheme in the state during 2016-17 the state got the approval of total project cost 2051.81 lakh.

In 2017-18 the action plan was under the blue revolution scheme

- Develop 7 numbers of beel fisheries under RIDF-XXI (rural infrastructure development fund)
- 74 numbers of natural fresh water wetlands of the state were selected for introducing fish fingerlings.
- Proposal for development of 49 numbers of beel fisheries of Assam Fisheries Development Cooperation
- Proposal for 12 numbers of Model beel fisheries projects of AFDC Ltd.
- Under the scheme proposal was submitted to ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & fisheries, Govt. of India for the development of the actual scheduled caste fishermen community.

Besides the AFDC Ltd. had executed some projects for development of 7 nos. beel fisheries under RIDF-XXI .The Project amount was 738.24 lakhs. The beel fisheries were Dandua beel in Morigaon district, Dholi beel in Cachar district, Wari Jeng Deng kenduguri Hojai Dist, Chandakhola beel of Dhubri district, Rowmari Beel in Darrang District, Bahuatava Beel of Barpeta District and Chaumukha Beel, Kamrup district. Moreover, the important Meen Mahal 29 No Dariadubi Meen Mahal, Majuli with amount of Rs.50.43 lakhs was developed. Under the same schemes for development of low laying areas of Rajgarh Miri Pathar, Sonitpur, PoskiaPukhuri, Balipukhuri of Darrang district Kathalguri low lying area of Kokrajar district with amount of Rs.336.12 lakhs had been given (*AFDC report 2017-18*)

### **Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY)**

Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana is a state plan scheme of special additional central assistance launched by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of India and National Development Council (NDC).Under this scheme during the period 2016-17, the approved allocation was 3300 lakh (Directorate of Fisheries Govt. of Assam)

**Schemes of State Plan (100% State assistance)**

1. Matsyajibi Unnayan Yojana
2. Infrastructure improvement
3. Contribution towards RIDF Assistance
4. Contribution towards NFDB assistance
5. Organization of skill up-gradation training & awareness meet
6. Interest Subvention on Short Term credit to fish farmers- Crop loan for fish farmers
7. Reactivation of Fisheries Co-operatives
8. Matsyajibi Basagruha Yojana
9. Interest Subvention on Long Term Credit Support to fish farmers
10. Integrated Management
11. Increase the Investment of Share capital in Fisheries Co- operative Societies
12. Promotion of Intensive Aquaculture & Fish seed
13. Investigation and Survey of Fishing Harbour & Fish Landing Center (**State Fishery Department**)

According to Directorate of Welfare of Plains Tribe Assam the State Government made budget allocation during the year 2017-18 for conversion of 12 (Twelve) number of villages into Model villages in selected village with more than 40 percent Scheduled Caste (SC) population.

Under the Model village scheme, the government of Assam has taken some necessary steps for empowerment of the Scheduled Caste people through income generating projects like fishery; modern methods of farming, weaving, horticulture etc. The state government ensures integrated development for SC population into Model village through developing their socio-economic status. Basically most of the people in the scheduled caste villages are involved in the fishing occupation and they are skilled fishermen. The main aim of the scheme is to improving the dwelling health and hygienic conditions of scheduled caste people of the villages.

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### **8.3. Conclusion:**

In the above discussion it is found that the Union Government adopts various schemes and programmes for overall development of the fishery sector in the country. These schemes and programmes also cover the state fishery sector. Although the state government provides different beneficial schemes and programmes for the growth of the fishery sector in the state nevertheless most of the fishermen are not able to avail such types of beneficial schemes and programmes because basically the fishermen are not educationally sound. Most of the fishermen are not aware about their different government welfare and fisheries development schemes. They do not know what is the government welfare scheme? How can they acquire the government facilities and financial support for improving their socio-economic status? Moreover, most of the government schemes are covered in the cultured fisheries where the fish farmers can avail these schemes properly. In the study it is observed that the state government of Assam provides comparatively less schemes and programmes for the development of captured fishery sector of the state than the cultured fishery sector. Therefore most of the fishery co-operative societies, SHG's and NGO's under captured fisheries are faced the various problems. So, the study finds out the various government schemes and programmes on the fishery sector which have been running since the first plan of the country.