

**PROCEEDING OF STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP AT HOTEL
SWARNACHUDA, BALASORE HELD ON 22.10.2005**

A stakeholders' meeting was organized jointly by the District Fisheries Office, Balasore and UNDP at Hotel Swarnachuda at Balasore on 22 October 2005 to obtain views of different stakeholders. The list of participants is appended as Annexure-1.

In the welcome address, the District Fisheries Officer gave an overall picture of district fisheries. Except for reservoir fisheries, all types of fisheries are undertaken in the district. The facts and figures for the district tell Balasore as the leading fisheries district. As decided in the state level meeting, the DFO and other staff are preparing district specific plans to increase the inland fish production and the export potentials.

A policy on fisheries for the state must consult all the stake holders. Access to credit, availability of water bodies on lease basis to the farmers, comprehensive understanding of the value chain in fisheries and addressing relevant issues would be essential if the state could achieve doubling the current fish production, according to the DFO. Some of the regulatory mechanisms such as OMFRA would require fresh examination in this context. The DFO highlighted the following issues:

- a. Because of the white spot disease in shrimp, the profitability of shrimp aquaculture has come down. The farmers have reduced their stocking density to contain the disease.
- b. Citing the examples of Gudupahi cluster, where 92 farmers are able to produce 80 MT of scampi annually, he stressed on sorting out the marketing bottlenecks.
- c. Availability of advanced fingerlings (150 gm) needs to be ensured. This is a critical gap for increasing production in the district.

- d. The lease money of Rs. 750.00 per Ha. for the GP tank is quite high for the SHGs and it should be lowered.
- e. At present, the involvement of bankers in pisciculture is not much. Higher credit flow to this sector should be made by the banks and by promoting the SHG activities.
- f. The Fisheries department should be in a position to meet the technical needs of the fishermen.
- g. Development of aquaculture villages adopting cluster approach and providing the required infrastructure and facilities should get attention of DRDA/ Government.
- h. Insurance coverage for the crops needs widening.

Bishnupada Sethi, Project Co-ordinator, UNDP highlighted the current thinking at the level of Government on the formulation of a comprehensive fisheries policy. Tracing the development since adoption of IPR-2001, he stressed on the important decisions taken by the Task Force on Fisheries, Project Steering Committee, Project Implementation Committee, various other meetings involving senior officials such as the Chief Secretary, APC, Secretary etc. The concern of the government is to get more investment for this sector, which has shown great potential for rapid growth and growth with equity. The current project of the Government with financial/ technical assistance from DfID/ UNDP would facilitate a policy making process involving various stake holders including the farmers across the state.

He stressed that involvement of all kinds of fish farmers; associations of trawlers, crafts, exporters, farmers etc. in this process would make the policy and state vision document realistic, pragmatic and sound on ground. He expected free exchange of ideas/ opinions/ views amongst all the members, who were present.

Dr. V Sampath, UNDP Senior National Consultant suggested that the policy should be need based. Orissa having vast resource base is a typical

case of untapped potential, and it promises high growth in this sector. Effort should be made for increasing the production and productivity in this sector.

There is need for increased emphasis on the culture fishery as the potential of capture fishery (marine) is almost utilized. Various wings of the Government such as FFDAs have very crucial roles to play in providing the much needed information and knowledge on aquaculture to the farmers. He hoped that consultation meetings like this would provide him the required input to draft the policy/ vision document.

Soon after the introductory remarks, the interaction sessions was started. A number of speakers expressed different views as follows:

1. Mr. K.N Praharaj – President, All Orissa Fish Producers Federation:

Initiating the discussion, Shri Praharaj stated that all the existing state policies have failed as they never took into account the stakeholders' views. He expressed happiness that a wide consultative process is being followed for the first time in Orissa. He recommended the following:

- Conservation of resources should be done through responsible fishing behaviour. Fisherman requires education for this purpose. Awareness building among all the stakeholders regarding conservation of fish must be attempted.
- Method (timing) of fish catching needs change, which should be based on monsoon conditions. Ban on fishing should be imposed during the period, May 1st to July-15 and this should be strictly monitored by Coast Guard etc. During that period, no fishing vessel should venture into the sea.
- Indiscriminate catching of prawn seed should be stopped by making this a cognizable offence.

- Reacting to the comments of Dr. Sampath that resources under deep sea are going waste, he intimated that catching of fish below 100 meter depth might lead to loss of the breeders and hence precaution must be observed. (This problem could be sorted out if collection of brooder stock is allowed for hatchery purpose with full restriction against their killing)
- There should be no restriction on the breeder collection. All the hatchery owners should to be advised to release some seed (20%) for natural stocking.
- Mesh size regulation is to be enforced.
- Fishing should be banned in the estuarine area.
- Catching of star fish etc., which have potential for production of by-products and bringing them to the shore should be banned. Fines should be imposed on the defaulters. The fishing community should be made aware of the pros and cons of such activity.
- River mouths should be dredged for smooth movement of trawlers.
- Flood situation should be controlled.
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- Total exemption of tax on fish and fish products.
- Fish being a perishable item, to make the movement faster, no tax be collected at check gates etc., and free movement should be allowed.
- For the Orissa fishery policy issues, study of different government policies should be done from the point of view of issues like business promotion, facilitation of export, various concessions/exemptions etc.
- Marine fishery be given the facilities like agriculture.
- Tax waiver for diesel and marine fishing accessories should be given.
- Adequate marketing infrastructure like insulated vans, preservation facilities be created in the state for easy preservation/transportation of fish.
- Tortoise breeding being limited to shallow waters, the zone of restriction up to 5 km should be enough. Present restriction up to 10 km conflicts with the interests of fisher community.

- Infrastructure like jetty, cold chain etc. should be provided to prevent post harvest loss.

2. **Biranchi Narayan Panda - Shrimp & Fish farmer, Bardhanpur:**

Shri Panda narrated the difficulties of the farmers and said that the farmers would be benefited if they reduce production since the cost of their production is going up due to various difficulties being faced by the farmers. He suggested the following.

- Electricity connection to the coastal villages must be given on priority basis as most of the villages do not have such facilities.
- Another key requirement is the road connectivity to all the fishing villages.
- The creeks require improvement for making the saline water available to the aquaculture farms.
- Aquaculture should be treated as part of agriculture to stop levying of conversion charges.
- The stamp duty should be lowered.
- The Orissa Marine Product Exporters, by not allowing the buyers from neighbouring states like AP and WB, are causing the exploitation of the farmers of Orissa through them. The outside buyers are subjected to a lot of pressures, in case they are making efforts to contact the Orissa farmers.

3. **S. K. Pattanaik, Fish & Scampi Farmers' leader, Gudupahi:**

Shri Pattanaik narrated about the status of Gudupahi cluster, which has been visited by a number of important officials and non-officials. There are shrimp farms covering 160 ha, scampi farms over 35 ha and IMC farming in 20 ha water area. 800 families, both APL & BPL are engaged in the prawn/ scampi/ fish, and polyculture. The farmers have gone for scampi farming and

the present production figure is 80 MT. They are getting expertise of Mr. Babu from Nellore. He cited the following issues.

- Problem in marketing of female species on account of size, requires redressal.
- The outside state buyers are receiving threats from the state based exporters in different forms.
- Improvement of the coast canal and its creeks are required urgently to facilitate inflow of saline water through the system.
- At present, the support from the commercial banks is negligible. The banks are charging interests on the subsidy portion of the total sanctioned amount till the time of receipt of subsidy component from the implementing department.
- Electricity tariff should not be charged at par with Industrial rate, but treated at par with agriculture, treating it as an agricultural activity.
- Diesel should be made available to the fish farmers at subsidised rate.
- The activities of state exporters exploiting the disadvantaged position of the farmers should be controlled. (The state based exporters are making delayed payment and refusing to acknowledge the buying of products through formal receipts.)
- Road connectivity, electricity, market complex, etc. should be created.
- Mobile laboratory should operate in the district.

4. Madan Mohan Jena, Pisciculturist, Rupsa, Basta:

Shri Jena has been a fish farmer since the year 1978. He has motivated 50 farmers to take up fisheries. He cited a number of issues as follows.

- Fish farming should come under agriculture, not allied agriculture or industry.
- Marketing problem, RMC gate collection, tax from fish carrying vehicle need examination.
- Availability of fingerlings is a state problem. Sale of fry by the fisheries department should be stopped.
- Shallow tube well scheme (similar to agriculture department) with subsidy support should be allowed for fish framers.
- Electricity / Diesel should be made available on subsidised rate.
- Bank is reluctant to finance the fisheries schemes. A study of this sector involving banks should be done in Orissa.
- The ceiling on input loan should be hiked.
- For all round development, integrated fishery scheme should be promoted in large scale.

5. Prafulla Kumar Jena, Trawler Owner, Dhamra:

Mr. Jena gave his perspective to the issues as follows.

- At Dhamra, the fisher people have almost lost their traditional rights to fishing in the sea. Due to Olive Ridley conservation measures and Defense purposes, two of the mouths at Dhamra are closed to the fishers for fishing. The third one is likely to be utilized for the up coming port. As a result of these measures, impoverishment of the fisher population is taking place.
- Turtle conservation should not come under the Wild Life Act.
- Jetty should be handed over to the Fishery Deptt., which presently is with the Commerce & Transport Deptt.
- Marketing problem of fish while passing through gates should be addressed on priority.

- The fishing boats licensed with Fisheries department should not be required to take another license from the Commerce & Transport department (Inland Waters Transport).
- No-Fishing zone demarcation should be taken up.
- Though aquaculture has been taken up in more than 600 ha. of land, license has been obtained only for about 100 ha. The District Fisheries should help the farmers to obtain the license from the Aquaculture Authority.
- A number. of awareness camps should be organised in Dhamra Cluster for licensing of aquaculture units.

At this point, there was a discussion on the reasons of low number of licensed cases in comparison to the existing numbers in the field. As the record of rights are not in the names of the farmers due reasons such as non-mutation of land, sub leasing of land, farming under the power of attorney, non-demarcation of CRZ, all the cases could not be licensed. These aspects require examination.

6. Deba Mishra, Trawler owner & Shrimp farmers

- During the breeding period, trawling should be banned.
- Food processing units require promotion in the state.
- Outside State buyers should be allowed to operate in Orissa.

7. Asish Dash, Soro, Ex- President, DCCB

Drawing upon his past experience as the President, DCCB, he suggested a number of things.

- The state should prescribe, advertise and promote indigenous formulation of feed for all types of fisheries.

- The extension work by the field staff should be extensive and field based. The F.E.O of the district should not be engaged by the block officials for non-fisheries work. New methods of extension activities including training/ awareness building/ sensitisation meetings of the stakeholders should be done.
- Snail culture should be promoted along with pisciculture for use as feed for aquaculture (in shrimp/scampi farm).
- Seed certification programme to be taken up to counter the substandard seed from West Bengal.
- SHGs, Co-operative formation should be encouraged and bank linkages to such groups should be made easily available for development of aquaculture
- Input loan in the form of K.C.C should be given to farmers.
- Feed plants should be encouraged in private sector like the case of Thapar Group in AP.

OTHER POINTS:

A number of other points were covered during the general discussion. They are as follows:

1. Facilities as available to the agriculture farmers through Kisan Credit cards should be extended to fish farmers.
2. There was an overwhelming interest to treat aquaculture as agriculture, which will save the farmers from the payment of conversion charges on pond excavation, and payment of electricity and water charges on industrial tariff.
3. Infrastructure development such as fish landing centres/jetties/ harbours must get top priority.
4. Cold storage, ice factories, refrigerated transport van are some critical missing links in the present system.

5. Weather forecast should reach the fishers in the shortest possible time.
6. The benefits meant for the individuals should be routed through their Associations. At present, bypassing the Associations or not consulting them result in their weakening. In contrast, the Associations in WB have emerged stronger due to their involvement in all programmes/ schemes of the government.
7. A full picture on state's position on scampi/ shrimp culture with regards to area, employment, bottlenecks etc., should be prepared after a detailed study.
8. Extensive training programmes are needed for the state as a whole.

The Project Co-ordinator summed up the discussion and stated that all the points debated/ discussed in the meeting were quite important and wished that those are considered while giving a shape to the vision and policy document. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Ms. Debasmita Samantray from UNDP.

Annexure**List of participants**

Sl No	Name	Organization/Address	Phone/email
1	Rabinarayan Pattanaik	Dist Fishery Office, Balasore	06782-262315
2	M.K Mohanty	BFDA, Balasore	06782-262315
3	Debendranath Pradhan	FEO, Dhamra	06782-267553
4	Prafulla Ku Jena	Trawler Owner Dharma.	06782-222511
5	Tapan Ku Parida	Trawler Owner Association , Dhamra	06782-222507
6	Rama Chandra Sahu	BWDC, Paradeep	06722-220901
7	Ashok Ku Sahu	Pisciculturist, Chandipur	260813,268091
8	Sudershan Sekhar Giri	Dy, SF	06782-262315
9	Pradeep Ku Mohanty	FEO, Balasore	06782-267168
10	Mihir Ranjan Roy	Scampi farmer, Gudupahi	06782-280404
11	Balaram Bhawmik	Scampi Farmer	06782-280404
12	Susanta Ku Barik	Scampi Farmer	06782-280404
13	Subal Krushna Das	Trawler Owner	06782-255770
14	Sudhir Ch Pradhan	FEO, (M) Bhadrak	
15	Ashok Ku Mohapatra	DSF(M), Balasore	06782-250318
16	Bibhuti Maity	Scampi Culture Gudupahi	
17	Susil Ku Pattanaik	Scampi Culture	06782-280488
18	Sudhansu Sekhar Parida	Scampi Culture	9937440744
19	Biranchi Narayan Panda	B.T Culture	9437264947
20	Pramod Pradhan	ADF (M) Balasore	06782-250318
21	Ashok Ku Bera	Scampi Culture	943717414
22	Loknath Satpathy	Prawn Culture	9861056419
23	Jaynarayan Jena	Scampi/Prawn Culture	9861140490
24	Ashis Ku Das	Pisciculturist	9437159943
25	Bhupendranath Sahu	Scampi Culture	9861143253
26	Sibnarayan Sankar	DFO, Balasore	06782-262315
27	Purna Chandra Das	FEO, Remuna	224006
28	Chittanarayan Rout	BTOA (Trawler)	270040
29	Kameswar Narayan Praharaj	All Orissa Fish Producers Federation	263946, 9437376716
30	Pradyumna Ku Pattanaik	BTOA	265510

31	D.K Mishra	M.M Pvt Ltd	264415, 9437295915
32	Bhimesh Sahu	Scampi Culture	9437156274
33	Ramaknta Nayak	Consultant	9831747033
34	Sudhansu Sekhar Panda	Bardhakpur	238655
35	Pitamber Rout	Scampi Culture	238671
39	U.C Sethi	Scientist & Consultant. Ministry of Agriculture (Fy) , Iran	9861097370
40	Niranjan Mallick	Trawler Owner, Dhamra	9437317740
41	Raj Kishore Mohapatra	Scampi Farmer, Balasore	
42	Sunder Mohan Behera	Pisciculturist, Balasore	
43	Amar Ku Jena	Trawler Owner	
44	Ranjit Mahata	Trawler Owner	222531
45	Madan Mohan Jena	Pisciculturist	254568
46	Madhu Sudan Roul	Trawler Owner	9437297045
49	Dr V Sampath	UNDP	0674-2595850
50	Sri Bishnupada Sethi	UNDP	0674-2595850
51	Debasmita Samantray	UNDP	0674-2595850