

Progress Report (January – April 2009) of “Poverty Alleviation through Small Scale Aquaculture (PATSSA)” Project

Project name : Poverty Alleviation through Small Scale Aquaculture (PATSSA)

Funded by : Aquaculture without Frontier (AwF), UK

Implemented by : RDRS Bangladesh

Project duration : February 2007 – January 2011

Reporting period : **January – April 2009**

Background :

Fish is the main source of animal protein to the rural people of Bangladesh. In rural areas, marginal farmers with small ditches, failed to get good harvest because of lack of technical support and input needed for the pond. The impact of this the resulting malnutrition of the family members , especially children. These ponds can be potential resources of income to meet the family necessities , particularly to meet the educational needs of children. This project has been extending supports for developing skill and knowledge of the marginal farmers to enable them to best utilize the ponds as a productive income source.

Objectives:

The main objective of the project is to alleviate poverty of the resource poor farmers through introducing improved fish culture technology in ponds.

Specific objectives:

- to increase income of the resource poor farmers.
- to increase fish production through timely and adequate supply of quality inputs (fish seed, feed etc.).
- to increase awareness of the people about improved fish culture.

Beneficiaries:

This year a total of 77 farmers are carrying out aquaculture activity. In the past two years , a total of 60 farmers have got support from this project. Each of the farmers has an average 20 decimal perennial or seasonal ponds and they belong to the poor section of the people living in rural area.

Training and other inputs:

The new farmers have been provided with training on pond preparation, liming & fertilization. During field based training, government fishery officers are also invited.



This project discourages the use of any fish poison. However, in seasonal ponds having no water during the months of December- February, problems of unwanted fishes are limited. The farmers have prepared their ponds using lime and fertilizer. The farmers are linked with the trusted fingerling growers developed through this project. The over wintered larger size fingerlings are taken from the project fingerling growers and stocked.

Harvesting:

During dry season most of the ponds were harvested. Average production was found to be 11.77 kg per decimal of water body. The production obtained have made farmers happy as the results are far better than in the past.



The average return in Tk 571.80 / decimal of pond water against the production cost is Tk. 192.8 is considered as good output by the farmers (One decimal = forty square meter) .



Some farmers are cultivating vegetable on pond-dikes. Farmers sell the excess vegetable in the market and earn extra income from the activity.

Fish consumption by the family

Average fish consumption by the family is 48 kg per year. The involved families are eating fish at least thrice in a week. This was not possible earlier. Farmers also entertain their relatives with fish, which save money to purchase fish from market.

Impact of the project

- Linkage between farmer and government officials have been increased that has helped farmers to get training & inputs like fertilizer
- Farmers are being motivated to get large size fingerlings for good result.
- Through regular follow up support to farmers , liming , fertilization and feeding have been adopted by farmers
- Farmers knowledge and skill have been increased



Conclusion:

Pond aquaculture is a source of nutrition for the marginal farmers. The project has brought confidence to marginal farmers that feeding fish will give them good return.

Sumitra is happy to get fish regularly from her pond:

Sumitra Rani Roy wife of Mr. Ratan Chandra Sarker, vill-Talukkalua, Union Kathal bari under Kurigram district has joined with PATSSA project in 2008. She has only 50 decimal of land including a small pond of 20 decimal. She was provided with pond site skill training and startup cost of Tk 3000. She released 1000 no of larger size fingerlings of seven species in July 2008. She also released prawn post larvae in mix culture by getting suggestion from Manager (Fish) of RDRS She spent total Tk. 4000 including her own investment Tk. 1000. During March 2009, As of March 2009 she harvested a total 240 kg of fish of which 195



was sold and 45 kg was used for family consumption. She got Tk 12,675.00 for 195 kg of fish. She has repaid her loan. She is happy to see the growth of prawn in her ponds and expecting that total prawn will be above 10 kg which may help her get additional income of Tk. 3000.00. Sumitra's family members are very happy with the productivity that has contributed to improve their family livelihood.
