

Annual Progress Report (February 2010 – January 2011)
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 : February 2010 – January 2011

Aquaculture is playing a vital role in the rural life for the farming people. The maximum daily source of animal protein comes from fish. Most of rural farmers have small ponds to culture fish. This project has been contributing extra income and sufficient fish consumption to the involved farmers' household. This project has been implementing since February 2007 and this report is covered the fourth year (February 2010-January 2011) of the project.

Objective:

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

Working area:

Name of District	Name of subdistrict
Lalmonirhat	Lalmonirhat Sadar
Kurigram	Kurigram Sadar

Project participants:

The project has covered total of 111 participants. In the third year started with 89 farmers and these farmers continued to fourth year. New 22 farmers have joined in the fourth year. The entire farmer have got extension support for two years. The participants are selected the resources poor people from the working Upazila. The participants have an average of 22 decimal ponds to culture fish.

Name of District	Participants		Total
	3rd year	4th year	
Kurigram	44	12	56
Lalmonirhat	45	10	55
Total	89	22	111

Training:

The new farmers are oriented on fish culture through pond site spot training. The Manager (Fisheries) of RDRS Bangladesh and the Volunteers of the PATSSA project conducted the field base training sessions. Through this training session, farmers are trained on pond preparation, liming, fertilization, feeding, fingerling conditioning, sampling etc. The old farmers are also get refreshers training as it in pond site, so that they can do better on fish culture. The local Fishery officers of government line agency also extend support during pond site training and refreshers courses.



Stocking density

Traditional stocking practice allowed excess number of fingerlings without maintaining species combination. The fingerling trader motivates the pond farmers for huge stocking for their own interest to sale fingerlings. There is no alternative of having suggestion about fish culture so they rely on them. Now farmers stocked larger size (3 inch plus size) fingerlings in their pond. They also advised to collect over wintering fingerlings though it is little more costly. The over wintering fingerlings gave good production to the farmers. The project farmers stocked 60 no fingerlings per decimal water body in their pond. The combination of stocked species is as follows:

Sl.	Name of species	No/decimal
1.	Silver carp	16
2.	Catla/ Bighead	6
3.	Sarputi	27
4.	Mrigal	2
5.	Rui	2
6.	Grass Carp	3
7.	Common Carp	4
Total		60



Fish Harvesting:

The fishes are harvested when attained above 200gm to 750 gm and it's continued. Farmers are also partially harvested fish 3 to 4 months interval .At the end of the month of January average harvest obtained 15.4 kg of fish from per decimal water body. Average selling price of per kg fish at pond site was Tk.95.00. Fish price is better in compare with the last year and farmers are happy with this price.



Revolving fund:

In the fourth year, total of Tk 343000.00 were distributed to the project participants. The farmers used this money for purchasing fingerlings, lime, feed and fertilizer. The volunteers assisted the farmers for maintaining quality of the inputs. This revolving fund is interest free financial supports that make the farmer confident for stocking in time and ensured feeding to fish and fertilizing in pond.

Fingerling Production:

A total of 04 nos fingerling producers have been developed through this project assistance (2 in Lalmonirhat and 2 in Kurigram District). They are advised to rear over-wintering fingerlings. This year they produced 6100 kg (approximately) fingerlings and sold to the local grow out and project farmers. The pond farmers are becoming aware to stock about large size over-wintering fingerlings for good growth. This business makes the farmers as a good entrepreneur in aquaculture sector and they are working as local extension worker .



Copping with Monga:

The involved farmers cope with *Monga* through selling fish during that time. Fish culture helps as source of money when no other alternative source of income in October to November. The household fish consumption especially for the children comes from own pond that has saved money to purchase from market. About 82% farmers are involved with pond dike cultivation and produced bean, bottle goud, bitter goud ,red amaranthus and yard long



bean. Most of these vegetables are used for family consumption and sold in market for earning money. This integration makes the project effective interventions for alternative household income.

Fish consumption:

Fish intake by the families involved with this project has significantly been increased. The rural poor farming family cannot afford to eat fish regularly even in a week. In PATSSA project average fish consumption during reporting period by the involved families is 33.4 kg . Not only the families of the project participant's but also the neighbors are purchasing fish during harvesting time, which normally spot decision to them.

Constraints / Problems:

Input cost becoming higher gradually. For climate changes, drought affect some farmers and they have no alternative to supply water in their ponds. As a result farmers stocked their pond in late to avoid any worse situation.

Lesson's learned:

- Fish culture is becoming as good source of family income for the rural farming people.
- During *Monga* period (September-November) , pond serves money to the poor farmers.
- Pond dyke cultivation increased gradually.
- Women and children were participated in fish culture easily.

Conclusion:

The small ponds are the potential source of income for the marginal families. Effective use of these potentials is not only the source of income but also the source of family nutrition. Supports from the project make them confidence towards fish culture. This project has been developing a strong linkage between fingerling rearers and the government officials and fish traders that will extend a great support for sustainable approach for fish culture by the marginal farmers. This sort of project is very important for marginal farmers.