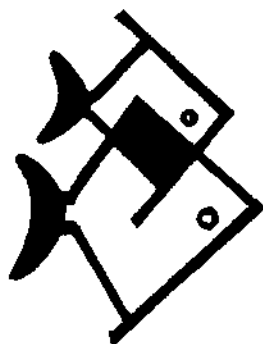


INDIAN FISHERIES

1947 - 1977



**ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF
THE INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY COMMISSION HELD AT COCHIN FROM
19TH TO 26TH OCTOBER, 1977**

fisheries extension

The first fisheries extension service established in the country was an Unit at the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore in 1950. This Unit organised a Fish Seed Syndicate, which helped the supply of quality fish seed to the deficit States. During the Second Five Year Plan (1961-66), 9 more extension Units were added. These units provided assistance to the fish farmers, fishermen and the fisheries departments in the survey, correction and improvement of water areas, fish seed production through river collection, induced breeding, 'bundh' breeding, improved methods of fishing, live fish transport, fish preservation, use of marine by-products, etc. Later, based on the Balwantrai Commission's Report, 50 pilot blocks, each with a separate Fisheries Extension Officer, were started some time in 1960. This was followed by the Expanded Nutrition Programme and the Applied Nutrition Programme at the 'block' level, under which facilities were provided for the production and distribution of protective foods, including fish. Some of the ANP 'blocks' are still being continued.

Extension Units have since been established as adjuncts to fisheries research and development institutions. The States have also been advised to start Extension Units with properly trained and qualified personnel. At present, out of 22 States and 9 Union Territories, separate extension services for fisheries are available only in 10 states.

The Extension Wings of Central Fisheries Research Institutes undertake demonstrations of techniques evolved by the institutes, conduct *ad hoc* training programmes for extension workers of the State Governments, fish farmers and others, publish pamphlets on the new or improved techniques on fish culture topics, take part in exhibitions, conduct fish farmers' days, render consultancy service and liaise with other agencies in answering technical queries. The subjects on inland fisheries and inland fish culture is handled by the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, that on marine fishes and mariculture by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and

on fisheries technology by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology.

Realising the importance of transfer of technology to the actual fishermen/fish farmer, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recently established Krishi Vigyan Kendras. These Kendras function on a philosophy of "learning by doing". In the field of Fisheries, two such Kendras have been established, one at Dhauli (Orissa) with CIFRI, and the other at Narakkal (Cochin, Kerala) with CMFRI. The former Kendra offers training on inland fish culture to the fish farmers and also train the trainers. The latter centre imparts training on coastal aquaculture and mariculture.

From the developmental Institutes, extension work by way of demonstration of diversified fishing methods and popularisation of diversified fishery products are being carried out; periodical publication of the results of marine fishery resources survey, are also brought out for the benefit of the industry. A central scheme establishing Fish Farmers Development Agencies is under operation, wherein fish farmers are given training, initial inputs and long lease of water areas in order to personally experience the fruits of advanced technology. The State Governments are also given cash grant-in-aid, for preparing publicity material, purchasing extension literature, and audio-visual equipments. A Central Fisheries Extension Training Centre is functioning at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) for training in service personnel on extension, oriented towards fish culture. For better utilisation of the fish catch, a proposal is under consideration for starting another such Extension Training Centre for fish handling and processing.

The extension activity under the State Governments is largely oriented towards popularisation of fish culture through supply of fish seed, training to pisciculturists on methods of fish culture, nursery and pond management, on inland fisheries side; demonstration/training on improved methods of fishing techniques, fish handling and processing in the field of marine fisheries. Extension pamphlets, bulletins, handouts and posters on fishery themes are also issued. Audio-visual publicity is undertaken in the rural areas. The Fisheries Departments participate in local and national 'fairs' and 'exhibitions'. Some State Governments have produced documentary films also.

On the export front, extension service is provided by the Marine Products Export Development Authority. It covers financial assistance, incentives for the export of non-conventional items, market intelligence, production, storage, shipping and marketing facilities, trade promotion, quality control, training, demonstration, participation in Indian and International fairs, publicity and consultancy service.

It is encouraging to note that the "user agencies" are given adequate opportunities to suggest priorities in applied research programmes, so that, need-based research projects are organised. Although the existing extension services help to disseminate the technology developed in the country to the fishermen, fish farmers and the industry to certain extent, a well planned system of extension both in the State and national levels is to be organised and strengthened to coordinate research, developmental and industrial activities so as to make the best use of the resources.