

Information Book on — Cage Aquaculture in India

Published by: Dr. G. Syda Rao, Director, Centrai Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin-682018, Kerala

Authors: G. Syda Rao, Imelda Joseph, K.K. Phiiipose and M. Suresh Kumar

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The book "Cage Aquaculture in India" authored by Drs. G. Syda Rao, Imelda Joseph, K.K. Philipose and M. Suresh Kumar and published by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) is a monumental work. This is the first comprehensive publication on the subject. Confined fresh and brackishwater bodies such as ponds are being fully or in some cases over-exploited creating environmental problems. The world is looking to farming of fish in open waters, whether they be fresh or marine, to meet the increasing demand for fish not only in India, but also all over the world. Cage farming of fish in freshwater fish started sometime back in India on a small-scale but for various reasons could not take off on a commercial scale.

Recent success in breeding and seed production of high value marine finfish by scientists of CMFRI and some other agencies have opened vistas for mariculture and underlined the need for development of technologies for farming of these species in marine cages that are suitable for Indian conditions and at the same time could be sustained by small farmers/fisher communities/entrepreneurs. Scientists of CMFRI have made this dream come

true by developing cage farming technologies for different species of finfish and shell fish, for the first time in India.

The book, divided in to 15 chapters, covers a broad spectrum of aspects that need to be taken in to consideration for successful cage farming. The chapters encompass detailed accounts on site selection for installation of cages including environmental aspects; engineering aspects that have to be taken in to consideration in building cost-effective cages that could be sustained by fishing/farming communities and small entrepreneurs; installation and maintenance of cages; grow-out farming practices for high value species such as seabass (*Lates calcarifer*), Cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*), mullets *Mugil* sps), Pearlsport (*Etroplus suratensis*), etc., capture-based aquaculture for fattening spiny lobsters, snappers, etc.; suitable and cost-effective feeds and feeding regimes; precautions need to be taken for health management of cultured stock and control of diseases; socio-economic aspects that play an important role in sustainable cage farming and; offshore-cage systems. Cage fish farming in open-access

waters raises issues of proprietary rights and the publication raises the need for appropriate policies.

The book also provides details on how to raise fry/fingerlings for stocking in cages. The authors provide case studies of successful demonstration of cage farming under taken by CMFRI in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha and Tamilnadu.

The authors have written this book based on their experience over the years in successful designing and demonstration of commercially viable cage fish farming, which makes the publication as a practical guide for those who wish to take up cage farming. The 240 page book is profusely illustrated with photographs and line drawings which makes it easy for everyone to understand and practice the avocation. The book is a must for all those who are interested in cage aquaculture.

Those interested in getting the book can contact: Director, CMFRI, Ernakulam North PO, P.B. No. 1603, Cochin 682 018, India.

Price: Rs. 800.00

