



A CSIR PUBLICATION

Indian J. Mar. Sci. (Monthly)
AUGUST 2013

Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences (IJMS)



First record of the
freshwater puffer
Tetraodon fluviatilis



Cage Aquaculture in India

BOOK REVIEW

Cage aquaculture in India

The book “*Cage Aquaculture in India*” (authors: G. Syda Rao, Imelda Joseph, K.K. Philipose and M. Suresh Kumar; publisher: Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi; Price: INR. 800.00) is a monumental work by the authors and first comprehensive publication on the subject. Enclosed fresh and brackish water bodies such as ponds 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 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* spp.), 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.

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

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. This book is a must for all those who are interested in cage aquaculture.



Honorable Union Minister for Agriculture and President, Indian Council of Agricultural Research Shri. Sharad Pawar released the book 'Cage Aquaculture in India' on board the vessel at Karwar on 19 April 2013

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