

Economics of Mussel culture

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Fisherman can take up mussel culture as an owner operated enterprise profitably. The technologically practical, cost effective mussel farming is a short-term venture and can be a part-time occupation for fishermen. Management of the farms is rather simple. Hardly any disease problem is met in the cultivation of mussels.

Materials required for the culture is readily available even in rural markets. Major constraint in the enterprise is the availability of the seed throughout the year. Though technology for seed production is available in India, at present farmers have to collect seed from the natural bed, limiting the cultivation in the season just following the breeding of mussels.

The economics feature of the rack method in the estuary is presented below on the current market trend.

COST ESTIMATES (Mussel Farming by Rack and Ren method in Estuary)

Area of rack	5 x 5 m (0.0025 ha)
No. of seeded ropes	100 Nos
Length of seeding in each rope	1 m
Culture period	Upto 7 months (Nov – May)

EXPENDITURE

Item	Quantity	Rate (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)
I.Capital Cost			
Bamboo poles	19 nos	150	2850
Nylon rope (3mm/4mm)	1.0 Kg	150	150
Seeding rope (12 mm)	13 Kg	150	1950
Total			4950
II.Recurring cost			
Cotton netting material	25 m	20	500
Cost of mussel seeds(20-25mm)	150 Kg	25	3750
Stitching charge	100	1	100
Canoe hire charge	2 trip	100	500
Labour charge (farm construction, seeding & harvesting)	8	400	3200
PVC pipe for seeding	1m	100	100
Miscellaneous		500	500
Marketing (shell on)	Rs 1/Kg	1000	1000
Total			9650
III.Labour charges (meat shucking)			
Shucking charge	250 Kg	10	2500
Fuel charge		500	500
Marketing	Rs 5/Kg	250	1250
Total			4250
Total financial outlay			
Shell on (I+II) = 4950+9650 = Rs 14600			
Shucked meat (I+II*+III) = 4950+8650 +4250= Rs 17850			
* Except the marketing charge			
Total yield			
Shell on	10Kg/rope	100	1000
Heat Shucked meat	25%		250
Income generated			
Shell on	1000	30	30000
Shucked meat	250	125	31250

NET PROFIT

Shell on	Rs 15400
Shucked meat	Rs 13400