

C O N T E N T S

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CHAPTER - II

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction

Fish farming involves raising fish commercially in tanks or enclosures, usually for food.

The major freshwater farming environments in India are pond, cage, pen, rice field, sewage feed and air breathing. Polyculture is the dominant culture system practiced. The major species are carp, freshwater prawn and catfish. Basically India's aquaculture is carp-oriented and the contribution of other species is marginal. Fish culture in India can be classified as extensive, semi-intensive or intensive and stocking rate is high at 18,408 fish/ha. Both the central and state governments have come up with schemes to help the cause of the farmers.

India is a large producer of inland fish, ranking next only to Japan. Out of the total inland fish production of over 3.6 million metric tons, more than 60% is contributed by fish culture in ponds and reservoirs. Fish farming is adopted by farmers on commercial scale.

Production Technology:

I. Preparing the Pond

The optimum size of the pond is rectangular with size varying from 0.1 to 2.0 hectares with a depth ranging from 2.0 - 3.0 metres.

A. Soil and water

The soil type in the pond and its fertility status vary much in our country. However the best soil for the fish pond for the fresh water fishes especially the carps is alluvial soil with neutral pH ranging between 6.5 to 7.5. Though the soil type cannot be changed except in the long range plans, the pH has to be brought to neutral if the pond soil and water are saline, alkaline, sodic or acidic.

B. Aquatic weeds

Most of the aquatic weeds in the fish pond are undesirable. They not only take away the nutrients but also upset the oxygen balance in the water by releasing carbon dioxide into the pond during the night. Aquatic weeds also obstruct the movement of fishes as well as the netting operations. The aquatic weeds may be free floating surface weeds, submerged weeds, rooted emergent weeds, marginal shallow water weeds and algae. All these weeds have to be eradicated.

C. Unwanted fishes

The unwanted fishes in the ponds may be predatory or weed fishes. They compete with cultured fish for feed, nutrients and space. These predatory and weed fishes can be eliminated through repeated netting of the pond. Another method of eradicating the above mentioned unwanted fishes is to drain out the whole water from the pond and eliminating all of them manually and refill the pond with water. In big fisheries the only effective method of eradicating the unwanted fishes is the use of fish toxicants.

II. Fertilizer Application in the Pond

Maximum fish production is achieved by the efficient soil and water management in the fish pond especially by maintaining the natural productivity of the pond. The natural productivity is maintained by the regular manuring and fertilizer application in the pond so that all essential nutrients for the growth of aquatic micro and small organisms (both plant and animal types) are supplied which directly or indirectly serve as feed for the fishes. Liming and manuring are the two main types of fertilization of the fish pond.