

IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS ON FISHERIES , AQUAPONICS ENSURE THE STEADY FOOD SUPPLY

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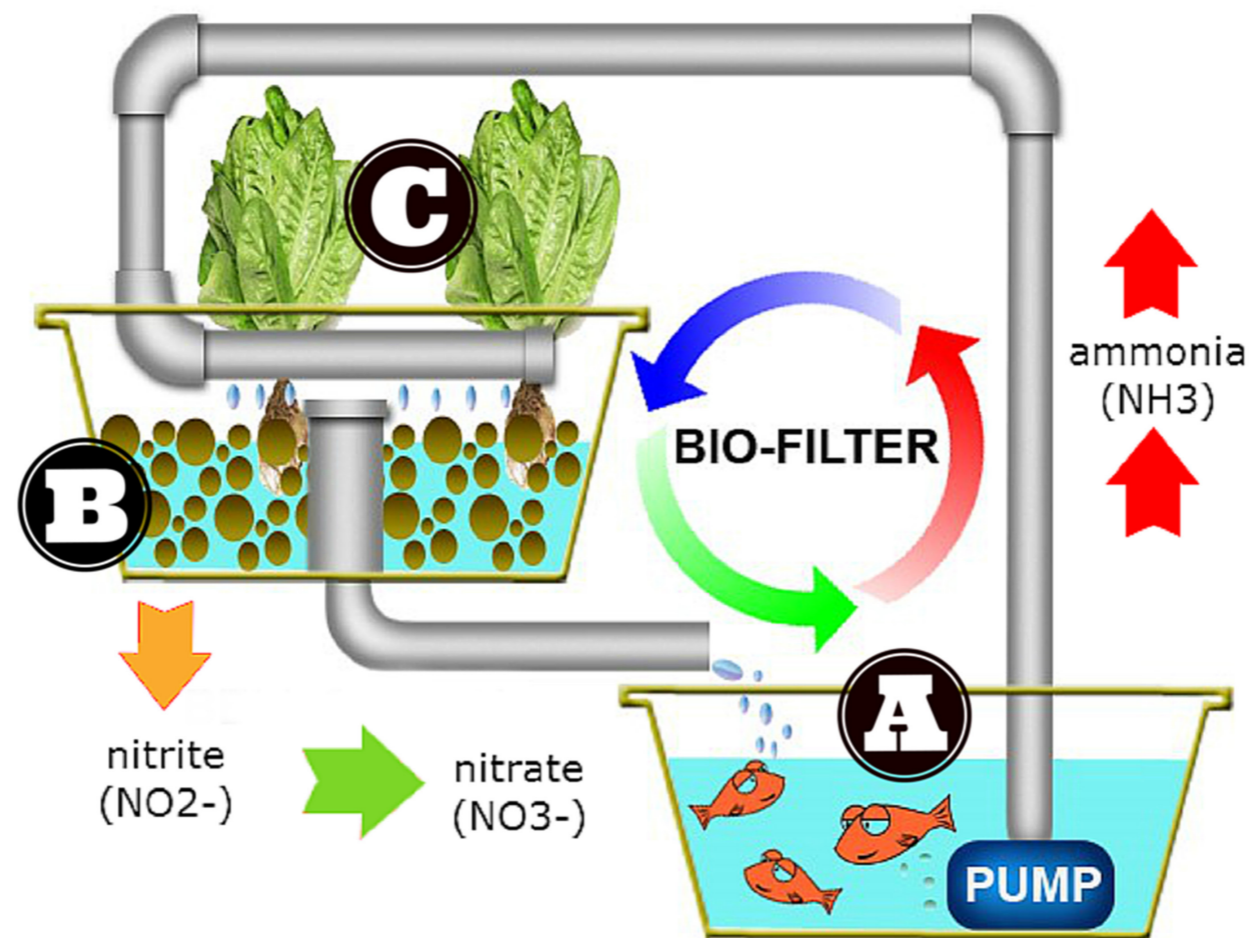
The Corona virus outbreak is already disrupting international travel and trade. The pandemic could impact the global food supply chain and leave some populations without adequate nutrition. This pandemic shows that we need to invest in local agriculture to boost our supply of local, reliable food. Aquaponics, hydroponics, and controlled-environment agriculture can produce large amounts of food with minimal space and resources. These water-based growing methods do not require soil and can be practiced from arid deserts to urban rooftops.

INTRODUCTION

Indian Fisheries in the pre-COVID-19 period:

The COVID-19 shock is playing out in almost a similar manner in all around the world by squeezing out demand and supply and the consequent economic slowdown. In India, the problem might be long-lasting because before the pre-COVID-19 period Indian economy had deteriorated significantly after years of infirm performance. In 2018-19 India's fish production was 13.34 million metric tones which was about 6percent greater than the previous year. As per seafood export is concern, it is the fourth biggest exporter in the world (Seafood Source). In 2018 India exported 13,77,244 tones seafood which etched \$ 7.08 billion (The Economic Times, 2018). In 2017-18 Andhra Pradesh was the leading fish producing state in the country, followed by West Bengal and Gujarat by producing 34.5, 17.42 and 8.35 lakh tones fish respectively. In inland production, Andhra Pradesh stood first followed by West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Gujarat was the first state in marine production in the country). Some major landed marine fish were hilsa, Indian oil sardine, sea catfish, lizard fish, seer fish, barracudas, silver bellies, anchovies, clupeids, mackerels, skipjack tuna, yellow fin tuna, crust crab, penaeid and non-penaeid prawn. In inland fish production, Indian major carps were the most cultured species followed by exotic carps, catfishes, minor carps and murels.

As per percentage share of disposition of catch is concern, 78percent was used as fresh marketing, followed by 8percent as freezing and 4percent as curing. India produced 52,262 million fry in 2017-18 in which West Bengal was the major contributor.



IMPACT:

Fishes are one of the major nutritious part of the global food chain and key source of employability generation among rural coastal people. Fish and fish products are one of the most traded food products throughout the world involving 38 percent international trade. Decreased consumer demand, lower supplies, and interference in supply chains will directly affect the people engaged with the industry such as fisherman, fish processor, fish vendors, suppliers and transport workers. Postponement of various research and development programme, science and management meetings will detain the growth of this sector. Lockdown in the landing centre's and harbors has severely affected the fisher folks in all nine coastal states and four coastal union territories of the country. Starting March 24, 2020 fishers have not ventured into the sea; in the meanwhile, fishing ban season started from July 15 and will continue till June 15, in east coast. For the west coast it is from June 1 to July 31. As a result marine fisherman will not be able to fish for about 75 days in east coast and 130 days in west coast. So, there is no doubt how this pandemic is going to devastate the fishing industry even after the lockdown. Rural

agricultural labour wages growth was depressed both in nominal and real terms from the pre COVID-19 period. In this circumstance, the corona outbreak will disrupt the fishery activity and supply through several dimensions, like crop harvesting, processing, procurement and marketing. Transportation hurdles, labour movement restriction, will directly affect the farming and processing industry. March to June is the peak season for fish farming as well as shrimp farming which will get hampered for non-availability of migrant workers. Shortage of fish seed, fertilizer and other inputs may also hamper the desire production level. Suppliers and producer will be greatly affected by reduced demand, transport constraint and closure of different restaurants and retail outlets. Lack of proper functioning of supply chains, lots of farmers are not able to sell their crop properly, leading to massive losses. Despite being essential service, fish and food supply chains are facing a lot of difficulties in marketing. Some people are not buying the fishes in afraid

CONCLUSION

COVID-19 outbreak has been deemed a global health emergency, and its impact on developing countries like India is one of heightening concern. With 1.3 billion populations and the precarious situation of the economy in the pre-COVID period, prolonged lockdown would be ruinous for the economy. Especially agriculture and the allied sector will be in a most vulnerable condition. India, with its apt governance, took the situation as a challenge and doing in all way of possibilities to combat with the pandemic. At the same time, the government and policymakers need to be prepared to minimize the impact of the shock and V-shaped recovery of the economy in the post COVID period.

