

AQUAFARMING: THE SOLUTION TO PLANETS FOOD INSECURITY

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INTRODUCTION-

Aquafarming or Aquaculture in India has a long history; the traditional practice of growing fish in small ponds in Eastern India has wide popularity around the country. Aquafarming in India is done widely in states like Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. Aquaculture is the fastest growing food producing sector in the world, contributing one-third of global food fish production. Over hunting of wild fish in oceans leads to depletion in availability of fish which promotes cultivation of fish under cultured environment to meet the growing food needs. The world's population is expected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030 and increase to 9.7 billion by 2050. To meet the growing sea protein needs the aquaculture has to maintain certain sustainable fish farming strategies to get the growth of aquaculture right. Aqua farming when practiced using the latest and improved fish cultivation methods can solve the food needs of billions of people around the world and also maintains environmental stability.

STRATEGIES TO GET FISH FARMING GROWTH RIGHT:-

- 1. Invest in new technological innovation:-** Compared to other livestock farming industries aquaculture is the youngest. Investing in breeding technologies, diseases control and feed and nutrition are the sectors where traditional methods are followed awaiting improvement in efficiency.
- 2. Focusing on the farm laws:-** Most aquaculture certification schemes focus only at the individual farm level. But having many producers in the same area makes it easy to get environmental certifications.
- 3. Rewarding sustainable farmers:-** Giving incentives to the farmers who follow sustainable aquaculture methods and contribute to environment.
- 4. Eating more farm grown fish:-** Fish farming reduces the pressure on marine life by providing an alternate protein source. Consumers should demand for local fish species to improve stability in marine life.

FORMULATED FEEDS FOR FISH FARMING-

- The use of formulated feeds over traditional feeds has increased the production quantity and reduced the time for production.
- Farmers using formulated feeds are getting the yield early as compared to farmers using traditional feeds.
- Feed fish farming has contributed significantly to water conservation which has world wide importance.
- Using formulated feeds has brought diversification in cultivated species.

INTEGRATED FARMING IN AQUACULTURE-

Integrated farming provides diversification in the field. Integration of aquaculture into their farming system leads to increased land and yield productivity. Growing of some species of fish which requires less attention in farmers rice fields increase the food security and also provide more income from same piece of land. Use of waste obtained from ducks and poultry farm as a feed to fish grown in the field reduces cost of feed and increases optimum utilization of resources.

For example-

RICE + FISH cultivation

FISH + POULTRY cultivation



WHY AQUAFARMING IS THE SOLUTION FOR FOOD INSECURITY:-

- In countries like Vietnam, Thailand and other Asian countries the fish produced through aquafarming are used for local consumption.
- Around the last 30 years the per capita consumption of animal protein in developed countries has been doubled.
- Where as in under developed and developing countries the people are unable to get the minimum nutritional food to maintain their health.

- Under these conditions fish that is produced through aquaculture is cheaper to get than any other source of animal protein.
- As it also contains much higher protein levels and other minerals and vitamins that can ensure the poor people food security.
- Commercial aquafarming also increases food security by providing employment and income to the local people.
- The demand for sea food is increased rapidly due to increase in health consciousness in people as it helps to fight cancer, cardiovascular disease and alzheimer.
- Aqua farming requires less effort compared to other livestock farming as fish takes less time to convert feed into protein.

