

‘Fisheries’ to nurture the growing population: The Global Fishing Scenario

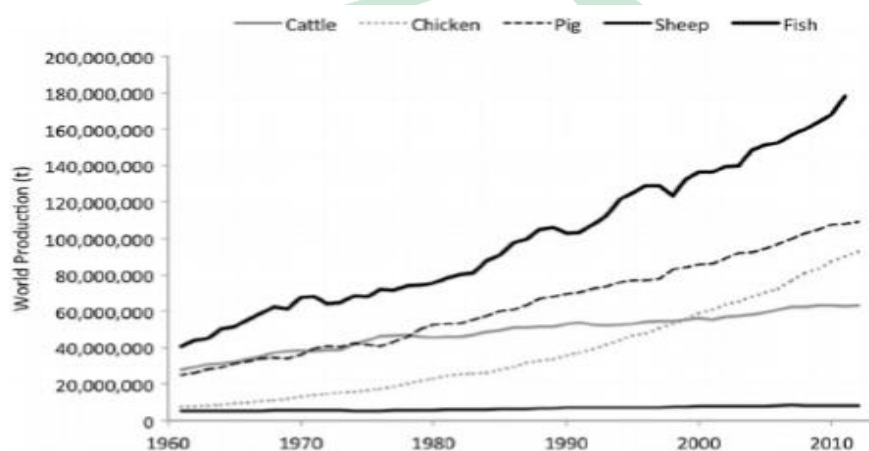
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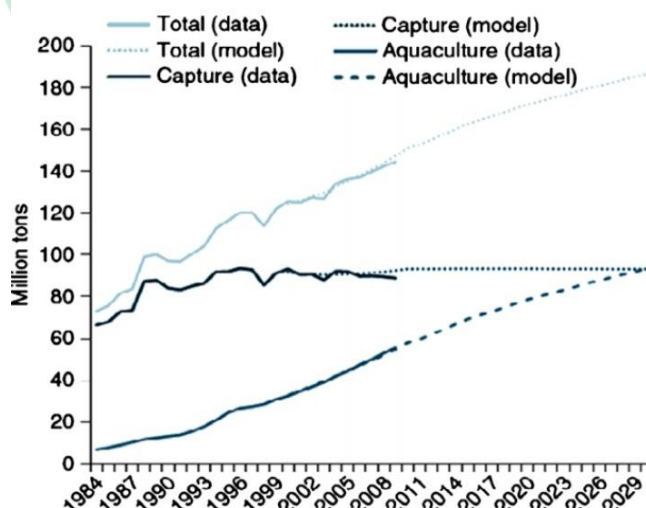
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The growing global population in the present scenario hits every human brain for the coming insecurity of the food in the near future. But to our surprise this insecurity turns into relaxation with the assurance of guaranteed supply of food with healthy balanced nutrition, when one comes to look forward to the ray of hope provided by the fastest growing food-supply industry in the world – “the fisheries and aquaculture”. The industry is standing stout and brave with its open arms to welcome the upcoming demands of people for the safe supply of quality food and nutrition, for both production and consumption. The fastest growing human population not only demands the safe supply of food but also struggle for the employment opportunities. So, besides providing the critically important food security to the people around the world, fisheries is also standing straight to substantially contribute to the global economy and is capable of providing employment to billions of people around the globe.



Need To Increase Fish Production and Consumption:

Nutritional deficiency is in one form or other affecting two billion people around the world. People who are insecure to food and nutrition mainly belong to the developing countries. Most of these countries face the problems of malnutrition, mortality, underweight and cognitive ability leading to low work productivity. The most devastating problem among all is malnutrition. Around 40% of the children around the world suffer with this problem due to lack to sufficient nutrition in their diet. To solve this biggest threat in human life the dietary substitute must include animal protein and essential amino acids so that balanced nutrition is obtained and health conditions might improve rapidly. Undoubtedly the fish and the fishery products are the cheapest source of animal protein and is also rich in essential fatty acids, particularly omega-3-fatty acids & micronutrients required for overall development of brain and body. Hence there is an urgent need to speedily boost up the fish production and consumption with the utilization of the available resources to its fullest. The increase in per capita production will definitely lead to increase in per capita consumption and this would be very helpful in solving the problem of malnutrition and vulnerability to various diseases due to deficiency of nutrition in human body. Also, the increase in production will definitely develop labour skill and manpower with highest employment opportunities and will therefore reduce drudgery.

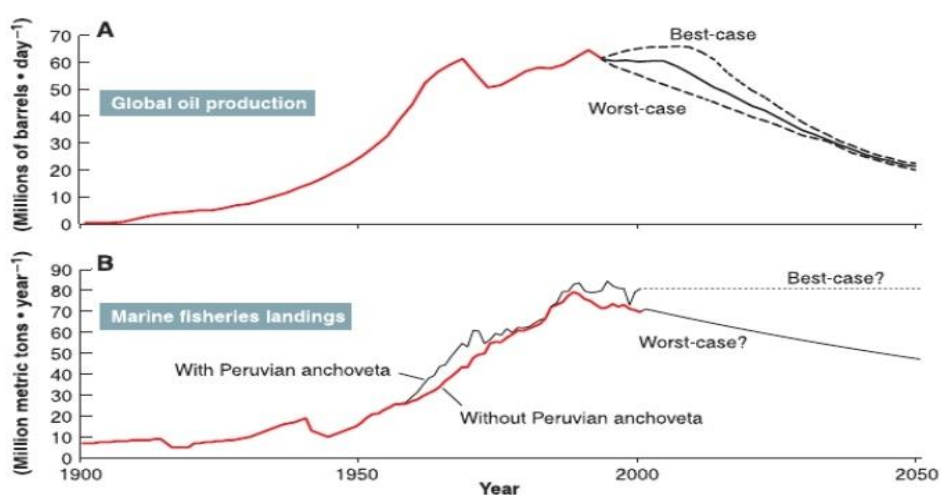


This graph describes the growth of fisheries sector by 2030 & its capacity to feed the world population.

Concerns Regarding the Growth of the Sector:

Recognizing the benefits we get from eating fish i.e., investing less and getting more in return in terms of health and encouraging people to do so is truly insufficient to overcome the problems of under nutrition. Therefore, severe concerns of food availability and its proper utilization are urgently needed to be addressed. The growth of the aquaculture in some region is still promising due to some of the environmental threats like aquatic pollution, destruction of fish habitats, overexploitation of the natural resource water bodies, overfishing and many more. FAO estimates that upto 20 MT of fish is wasted by being discarded at sea immediately after the catch. In addition to economic loss the issue of conservation needs strict attention. The other significant challenges before the industry are to meet the growing demands for seed, feed and fertilizers both quality and quantity wise, appropriate usage of technologies and above all the assurance of food safety and quality to feed the upcoming large population.

In order to face these challenges, the fisheries sector must develop the capacity to build and run effective quality assurance system. Also, the strict implementation of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing could be very much helpful in facilitating the sustainable utilization of fishery resources. So at this point of time if the regulatory principles are not applied and the sustainability criteria are not followed the industry may come to its worst scenario and the graph may go down. Hence it is up to the people how do they deal with their present and future needs.



Conclusion:

The Food and Agriculture Organization believes that the aquaculture holds the capacity to feed two-third of the population by 2030. The industry needs to be monitored and supplied

with all the required governmental policies and follow the laws to keep the graph of the industry go up and up. Aquaculture is inherently a resource efficient means of producing food and also in harmony with the environment. This sector is growing with its fullest capacity with maximum utilization of the resource and technology. Equally the nutrient status of the cultured fish is so well in demand and sufficient to feed the entire world giving lots and lots of health benefits. Therefore, once the industry starts flourishing the fear of non availability of food in future would definitely be out of the mind of the people. Keeping in mind the idea of sustainability and the regulation principles followed, the sector then would bring glory to both health of the environment and the people. The upcoming time of Blue Revolution assures every single individual for the supply of quality food.

