FISHERWOMEN: A POSITIVE APPROACH FOR TRAPA-CUM-FISH FARMING

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ABSTRACT

Madhya Pradesh has got about 1.19 lakh ha. of water area in the form of ponds and tanks. The maximum numbers of perennial village tanks are located in the agro-climatic zone. The analysis of the progress and working of Trapa-cum-Fish Farming and Composite Fish Farming in the state revealed that both have contributed significantly in increasing the fish production. The present study has been carried out in leased fish pond in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh. The study was conducted with the objective (1) To know the personal and socio- economic status of the fisherwomen. (2) To study the level of knowledge, adoption and attitude toward Composite Fish Culture of fisherwomen. (3) To understand the reasons behind not leaving the Trapa - cum - fish farming by fisherwomen. The finding of the present investigation revealed that fisherwomen practicing composite fish farming have sufficient knowledge and medium adoption, while Trapa-cum-fish farming have sufficient knowledge but low adoption, because they stress more on Trapa cultivation than fish farming as they get quick returns from it.

Key words : Trapa-cum-Fish Farming, Composite Fish Farming, Fisherwomen and Composite Fish Culture

INTRODUCTION :

In the process of rural development especially fish farming has acquired special significance in the context of economic growth in a rapidly changing socio-economic and socio-cultural climates both in developed and developing countries. Several policy measure and development were under taken to improve the socio-economic condition of rural poor, some of which are general neutral and some are exclusively targeted to development of women. Women are equally endowed with motivation and managerial capabilities in starting and running. The participation of fisherwomen in fisheries is well established and highlighted by several workers. In Madhya Pradesh also, women play an important role alongwith men in this farming, reports that the reasonability of fisheries is almost completely shouldered by women in this state. Therefore, keeping in view certain unique factors of the state like associate to her work for economic increasing, small land holding, less mechanization. The cultivation of Trapa (Sighara)-cum-fish farming in the state of Madhya Pradesh is mostly continued to Mahakhushal region, and 68 % are under this crop in pond is mainly concentrated in Jabalpur district in Mahakhushal. Comparative analysis of yield of fish and Trapa (Sighara)fruit production shows that our Trapa fruit production per hactare is very high due that of undeveloped fish farming technologies. So as to boost up the trapa cultivation/ production, latest indigenous/ tradional technology use by Trapa gowers. Despite this the production of Trapa per hactare in Mahakhushal region is very good and high.

The probable reasons that could be attributed to high production are adopted of recommended technology due to its practicability and suitability good command and knowledge on the part of Trapa (Sighara)growers, price policy, the situational characteristic and socio-economic background of Trapa-cum- Fish Farming of fisherwomen. Although, there are a number of studies on the role of rural women in agriculture, dairy and as well as fisheries sector yet there remain paucity of data with respect of their knowledge and adoption of scientific practices. Hence, in the context, the present study has been undertaken with the specific objective

(1) To know the personal and socio- economic status of the fisherwomen.
(2) To study the level of knowledge, adoption and attitude toward Composite Fish Culture of fisherwomen.
(3) To understand the reasons behind not leaving the Trapa - cum - fish farming by fisherwomen.

METHODOLOGY :

The study was conducted in Jabalpur District of Madhya pradesh. Out of 7-development block of Jabalpur district. 6 block of Jabalpur Disttict were randomly selected. These blocks have 210 Gram Panchyats fish pond for lease to fish farmers. Age, education, caste, family type, family size, occupation, size of land holding, farm power & implements, farm experience, annual income, knowledge, adoption & attitude were taken as independent variables. As 25 fisherwomen were personally interviewed with the help of pre-structured interview schedule. The collected data were analysed into percentage and average.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :

(A) Personal and socio - economic status of Trapa fisherwomen–It is evident from the Table -1 that, about

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44 per cent of the fisherwomen were from middle age group categories, followed by young age & old age group, 56 per cent were illiterate. In case of caste the higher percentage (76.00 %) was Other Backward Class followed by Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. Majority of the fisherwomen belonged to nuclear family (84.00 %) a large majority (56.00 %) of the respondents had big size families. Their average family size was five members and having Trapa-cum-fish farming as major occupation (64.00 %).

Table 1. Personal & Socio - economic status of Trapa fisherwomen

S. No.	Characteristics	Category	Frequency (n-25)	(%)
(A)	**Personnel**			
(1)	**Age-**	(a) Young (Upto 35 yrs)	08	32.00
		(b) Middle (35 to 50 yrs)	11	44.00
		(c) Old (Above 50 yrs)	06	24.00
(2)	**Education**	(a) Illiterate	14	56.00
		(b) Can read & write	05	20.00
		(c) Upto primary	05	20.00
		(d) Middle.	01	04.00
		(e) Upto higher secondary	Nil	Nil
		(f) Graduate & above	Nil	Nil
(3)	**Caste**	(a) General	Nil	Nil
		(b) Other Backward Class (OBC)	19	76.00
		(c) SC	05	20.00
		(d) ST	01	04.00
(4)	**Family type**	(a) Nuclear	21	84.00
		(b) Joint	04	16.00
(5)	**Family size**	(a) Small family (Upto 4)	11	44.00
		(b) Big family (5 & above)	14	56.00
(B)	**Socio-economic**			
(6)	**Occupation**	(a) Trapa-cum-fish farming	16	64.00
		(b) Agriculture	02	08.00
		(c) Dairy	03	12.00
		(d) Fishermen (Only netting)	04	16.00
(7)	**Size of land holding**	(a) Landless	23	92.00
		(b) Marginal (Upto 1 Ha.)	02	08.00
		(c) Small (Upto 2 Ha.)	Nil	Nil
		(d) Big (More than 2 Ha.)	Nil	Nil
(8)	**Farm power & Implements**	(a) Cool Box	01	04.00
		(b) All Type nets & Boats	22	88.00
		(c) Tube well	02	08.00
(9)	**Farm experience**	(a) Low (Upto 5 yrs)	Nil	Nil
		(b) Medium (Upto 10 yrs.)	04	16.00
		(c) High (15 yrs. & above)	21	84.00
(10)	**Annual income**	(a) Low (Upto 25,000/-)	06	24.00
		(b) Medium (Rs. 25,000 to 50,000)	16	64.00
		(c) High (Above 50,000)	03	12.00

Regarding the size of land holding, majority of the respondents (92.00 %) had landless. In the case of farm power and implements majority were having all types of net and boats (88.00 %), followed by cool box and tube well, farm experience high (84.00 %).

The annual income respondents were medium (64.00 %). Thus, the findings indicate that the respondents had fairly satisfactory economic status as majority of them were engaged in other occupations also, besides agriculture.

(B) Level of knowledge of fisherwomen–The observations regarding knowledge level of the fisherwomen are given in Table - 2. It is noticed from Table-2 that, majority 52.00 % of the fisherwomen had medium knowledge level; while 20.00 % of the respondent had low knowledge level and 28.00 % of the respondent had high knowledge level about the Composite Fish Culture.

Table 2. Distribution of fisherwomen according to the level of knowledge of Composite Fish Culture practices

S.No.	Level of knowledge of fisherwomen	Number of Respondents (n-25)	Percentage
1.	Low (Score upto 5)	05	20.00
2.	Medium (Score from 6 to 15)	13	52.00
3.	High (Score 16 & above)	07	28.00

The findings of the present investigation had to conclude that almost all the respondent were having knowledge about the Composite Fish Culture practices but to the varying degree. This may be attributed to their needs, interest and environmental factors.

(C) Level of adoption of fisherwomen–It is observed from Table - 3 that, 64.00 % fisherwomen were in medium adoption category, while 24.00 and 12.00 per cent were observed in high and low adoption categories, respectively. The plausible reason for medium and all adopter might be due the lack of skill in operating the available practice and financial constraint.

Table 3. Distribution of fisherwomen according to the level of adoption of Composite Fish Culture practices

S.No.	Level of adoption of fisherwomen	Number of Respondents (n-25)	Percentage
1.	Low (Score upto 5)	03	12.00
2.	Medium (Score from 6 to 11)	16	64.00
3.	High (Score 12 & above)	06	24.00

(D) Level of attitude of fisherwomen toward Trapa - cum- fish farming–A perusal of Table-4 indicates that, a majority of fisherwomen had favorable attitude (76.00 %). Among the remaining, more or less equal number of fisherwomen had unfavorable (08.00 %) and neutral (16.00 %) attitude. The probable reason for this might be that majority of the fisherwomen were partly satisfied to satisfied with respect to the Trapa-cum-fish farming job occupation in pond system.

Table 4. Distribution of fisherwomen according to the level of attitude of Trapa-cum-fish farming practices

S.No.	Level of adoption of fisherwomen	Number of Respondents (n-25)	Percentage
1.	Unfavourable	02	08.00
2.	Neutral	04	16.00
3.	Favourable	19	76.00

(E) The reason behind not leaving the Trapa cultivation by the fisherwomen–It becomes evident from Table-5 that Trapa farming is visual on water surface (100.00%) was the most important reason that completed the fisherwomen to not leave the Trapa cultivation. This was followed by parental occupation (84.00%), poor economic condition (76.00%), land is suitable for planting Trapa (92.00%), long distance of harvesting between Trapa and fish (72.00%), do not feel education as important (60.00%), high return, as a cash crop and provide and maximum employment to farm families.

Table 5. Distribution of fisherwomen according the reasons behind not leaving the Trapa cultivation

S.No.	Reasons	Number of Respondents (n-25)	Percentage
1.	Poor economic condition	19	76.00
2.	Land is suitable for planting of Trapa	23	92.00
3.	Parental occupation	21	84.00
4.	Long distance of harvesting between Trapa & fish	18	72.00
5.	Do not feel education as important	15	60.00
6.	Trapa farming is visual on water surface (Except fish)	25	100.00
7.	High return (cash crops) & maximum employment to farm familie	15	60.00
8.	Physical. Chemical & Biological control measures	21	84.00
9.	Best quantity & quality seeding of Trapa easy available	23	92.00
10.	Lack of knowledge about, management of fish pond, disease & training regarding-fisheries.	22	88.00

As much as 84.00% of fisherwomen were aware about physical, chemical and biological control measures like, as regard to chemical control over half of the respondent had knowledge of chemical control measures against sucking pests, insect and worms. Emerge percentage of respondents processed knowledge about biological control measure like use of Trapa and local fish, lack of knowledge about management of fish pond, disease and training regarding-fisheries.

CONCLUSION :

From the above discussion it could be concluded that the maximum fisherwomen were of middle age group, having education upto middle level, were from other backward class, had nuclear family, Trapa -cum- fish as their main occupation, belonged to big size family category, had all types of net and boat as the main source of farm power and implements, had medium knowledge and medium attitude toward Composite Fish Culture and Trapa-cum-fish farming of fisherwomen.

It can be concluded from this study that half of the fisherwomen had medium level of knowledge, whereas nearly two-third of them had medium level of adoption as a result of practices of fisherwomen. All these factors had to increase in the adoption recommended practices. Regarding attitude of fisherwomen establishes that the major role-plays in Agricultural development by Trapa through the attitude by fisherwomen.

In case, reasons behind not leaving the Trapa cultivation was observed that one-half of the fisherwomen had not left the water area for fish farming at pond level. While one-third had left for Trapa (Sighara) cultivation at means, in many cases, tendency is to complete the shedow to the level of available in the pond, efforts, therefore, ought to be made to build a good network of Trapa-cum-fish farming in the rural area.

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