

Sustainable Aquaculture for Food and Livelihood (SAFAL)



Context

Assam and Odisha have a long tradition of aquaculture production and large areas suitable for sustainable aquaculture. Its potential is not yet fully exploited in order to improve the supply of high-quality proteins and micronutrients from fish products to the rural population and to create additional income. Major challenges for low productivity of sustainable aquaculture are a lack of access to high-quality fingerlings and feed, limited knowledge of operators and poor access to national funding programmes.

Small producers require advisory services on technical innovations, profitability, financial services and organisational development. Supplying these services promotes the transformation of subsistence farmers into small business owners to ensure the availability of fish products for better nutrition for the local population. An increase in production could be achieved by training producers in resource-conserving and efficient pond management in combination with improved access to high-quality fingerlings and feed.

Our objective

The food insecure population in Assam and Odisha have more fish products and a higher income from sustainable and resource-efficient aquaculture in pond farming.

Activities in Assam and Odisha

- **Technical training** for fishpond operators on resource-conserving and efficient pond management as well as improved access to high-quality inputs to increase production and income.
- **Business education** for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Aquaculture Service Providers (ASPs) to improve their entrepreneurial and financial capacities.
- **Strengthen FPOs, SHGs and ASPs** to expand their range of aquaculture extension services, to build up their organizational structure for commercial aquaculture and marketing.
- **Strengthen the policy and programme framework of public institutions** for sustainable and resource-conservation aquaculture in line with FAO guidelines on aquaculture.
- **Promote a multi-stakeholder platform** for knowledge exchange and proposed solutions for implementing the aquaculture strategy of the government.



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State

Assam
Odisha

Term

May 2021 to May 2024

Budget

up to EUR 5,900,000

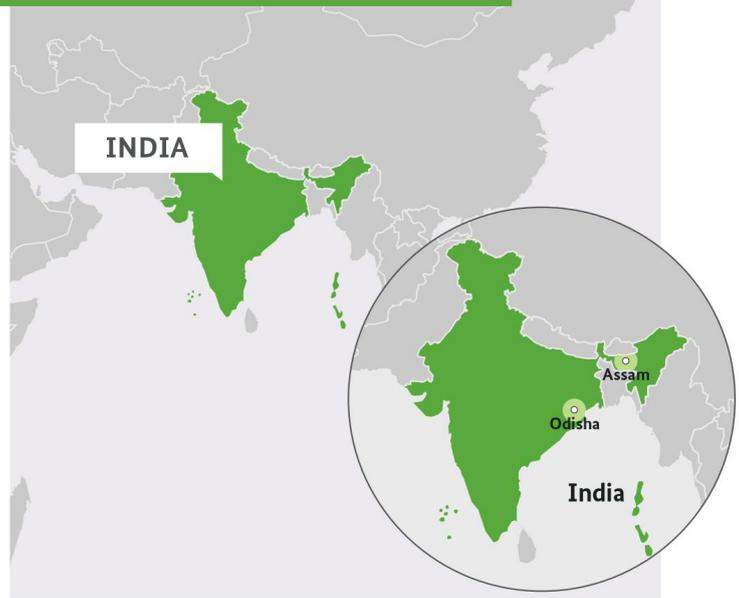
Implementing Partners

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy (MoFAHD),
Government of India (National Lead)
State Departments of Fishery, Assam and Odisha

Target group

Aquaculture fish farmer (including members of FPOs, SHGs etc.)
Actors in the Aquaculture Value Chain (ASPs)

WHERE WE WORK



A real-life example

Fish farmers in Assam and Odisha are facing similar challenges to increase their production and income through sustainable aquaculture. Besides a lack of knowledge on quality fingerlings and feeding regulations, there is a lack of access to training due to time restrictions and distance to training locations, especially for women. There is also a lack of awareness on how to avail existing government schemes due to low financial literacy and capacities in business development.



The Indian Government is promoting the collectivisation of small fish farmers into FPOs and women SHGs to increase productivity, improve market linkages, reduce costs for inputs and improve livelihoods. By being a member of an FPO or SHG, farmers get better access to training and information on government schemes, as well as assistance on managing finances and solving day to day queries.

In order to improve advisory and training services for farmers, the SAFAL project promotes the development of Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in cooperation with local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). The CRPs are members of the community and have graduated out of poverty with the help of their farmer collectives. As they have long experience being a member of the community themselves, they are trusted by the community. Nowadays, CPRs are mostly supporting farmers in agriculture and animal husbandry, but not yet in aquaculture. The NGOs have started an approach to select and train aquaculture CRPs to enable them to share their knowledge with the communities. The CRPs gain the communication and leadership skills to disseminate technical and business knowledge on resource-conserving and efficient pond management, as well as advise farmers on accessing government schemes and high-quality inputs.

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