

Sustainable Aquaculture for Food and Livelihood (SAFAL)



Context

In India, the lack of access to high-quality inputs (stocking fish and feed) and limited knowledge of operators on generating profit with the given resources are among the major causes for low productivity of sustainable aquaculture. Access to national funding programmes that could help overcome this bottleneck is often linked to fish farmers organising themselves into producer groups. Thus, 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. Further, their effects ensure the availability of fish products and offer better nutrition for the local population. An increase in production could be achieved by training producers in resource-conserving and efficient management in combination with improved access to high-quality operating resources.

The states of Assam and Odisha have large areas available that are suitable for aquaculture. However, the potential of sustainable aquaculture to improve the supply of high-quality proteins and micronutrients from fish products to the rural population and to create additional income is not fully tapped. Assam in the North East Region (NER) of India produces 71% of the total fish production in the NER with the potential for doubling its production. Available policy frameworks, government schemes and research institutions create improved conditions for the sustainable development of aquaculture in Assam. In Odisha on the Eastern coast of India, inadequate advisory services, low literacy and poor adaptation to the consequences of climate change challenge the development of aquaculture. Odisha has a long tradition in fish farming and has the capacity to cover its own need for fish products by increasing production and thus become independent of the neighbouring states.

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 respective organizational structure for commercial aquaculture and marketing.
- **Strengthening 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 July 2025

Budget

EUR 6,1 million

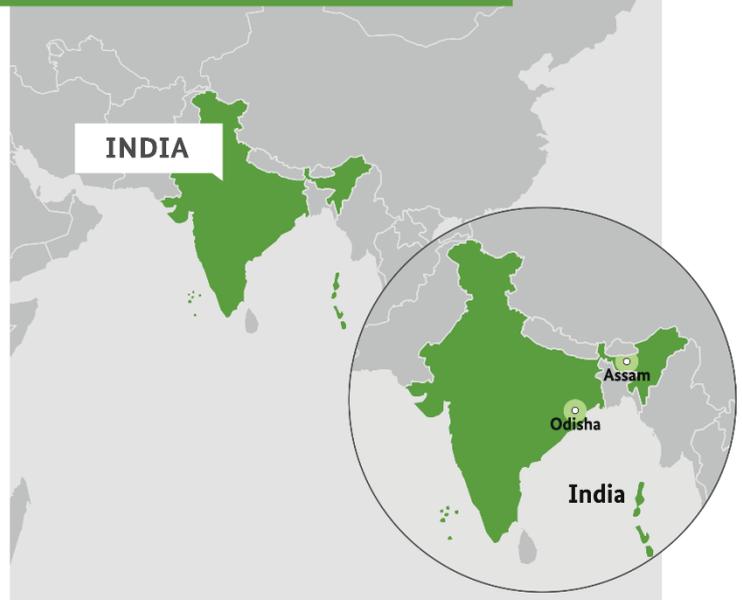
Implementing Partners

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

The Indian Government is promoting Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to enhance fish production and address post-harvest challenges of fish farmers to improve livelihoods. The collectivisation of small and marginal fish farmers into FPOs is the most effective mechanism to increase productivity, reduce costs, facilitate market linkages and increase income. Fish farmers obtain better access to markets for their produce, input supply (feed, fertilizers, stocking fingerlings, etc.), transportation and fishing equipment.



In Kendrapada district in Odisha, the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development supported the local NGO Gram Utthan in the first two phases of the Umbrella Programme for Natural Resource Management (UPNRM). GIZ and KfW initiated the UPNRM to recover abandoned ponds and ensure sustainable livelihood for the community. 431 fish farmers received credit for developing 250 acres of unutilised ponds. Fish farming has been integrated into poultry, dairy and horticulture activities to reduce risks and ensure nutrition and optimal use of natural resources. The efficient use of natural resources has decreased farming costs, while scientific aquaculture approaches have increased fish yield from 500-800 kg/ha to 3000 kg/ha. Gram Utthan has organized the fish farmers into FPOs to create market linkages and to upscale the intervention.

Gram Utthan formed four women FPOs under UPNRM for supporting aquaculture women farmers to create market linkages platform and market functionary. At present, Gram-Utthan works with 1,500 aquaculture producers in Kendrapada district, indirectly impacting more than 3,100 individual farmers in villages and clusters in the adjoining coastal districts of Odisha.

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