

# SUCCESS STORIES

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In cooperation with



**FOOD SECURITY THROUGH INTEGRATED AQUACULTURE (EIAA)  
(LOCALLY KNOWN AS SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE FOR FOOD AND LIVELIHOOD OR SAFAL)**



## TUTUMONI DEKA



“When we took the training, we realised that women can also rear fish and support her family. Previously, we had no idea that it can be a profitable business.”





# TUTUMONI DEKA

**DISTRICT:** Darrang

**STATE:** Assam

**PRODUCER GROUP:** Seuji PG

**YEAR OF TRAINING:** 2022 and 2023

**POND AREA:** 0.33 acres (0.13 hectares)

Tutumani Deka, a resident of Khas Barkola village in Paschim Mangaldoi block, Darrang, began her fish farming journey in 2017-18 with a Rs. 28,000 grant from Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA). A devoted mother of two sons pursuing their education, she balances her family responsibilities with her passion for fish farming. Her passion for aquaculture was further ignited through a Community Resource Person (CRP) training programme on sustainable aquaculture practices under the Indo-German development cooperation project 'Food Security through Integrated Aquaculture (EIAA)' (locally known as Sustainable Aquaculture for Food and Livelihood or SAFAL), implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH with local NGOs, under the guidance of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Assam in 2022 as well as 2023, where she gained in-depth knowledge and expertise on sustainable aquaculture practices.

Her dedication led her to actively participate in various workshops organized by SAFAL, GIZ on sustainable aquaculture in Arunachal Pradesh, Bhubaneswar, and Guwahati, showcasing her commitment to excellence. As a CRP, she has shared her expertise by training over 30 individuals in her village, earning praise for her impactful guidance. Tutumani embraced organic fish farming, investing fish and homemade feed, achieving impressive returns in a small period of time. Additionally, she utilized the bund area of her pond to grow Black Lentils, earning an extra income.

She has also been trained as a trainer under the ABS model, leveraging her knowledge to successfully expand her business. Tutumani's efforts have been met with widespread appreciation and have inspired others to follow in her footsteps.

- Completed 18 days of Residential Training programme for CRPs in Assam in 2022.
- Completed 9 days of Non-residential Refresher training for CRPs in Assam in 2023.
- Undergoing training as trainer under ABS model.
- Number of cluster farmers trained: 25
- Number of farmers trained on ABS: 150
- Number of hours spent on training cluster farmers : 28 (14 chapters; 2 hours each)
- 170% increase in fish production\* on adoption of learnings from training.

## Income per cycle\*

- Before training: 2,000 INR (22 Euros)
- After training: 18,000 INR (198 Euros)(>100% increase)

## Specific Interventions

- Use of homemade feed, to maintain plankton production in pond
- Scientific pond preparation and management
- Informed decision for farm economics

\*Values are based on personal communication and field visits

1 Euro = 90.16 INR (as on 22.01.2025)



## RAJIBANANDA GOHAIN



The training program provided valuable insights into aquaculture, crucial for community development and boosting sustainable production for future success.



# RAJIBANANDA GOHAIN

**DISTRICT:** Biswanath

**STATE:** Assam

**FARMER INSTITUTION:** Sootea FPC

**YEAR OF TRAINING:** 2022

**POND AREA:** 5.3 acres (2.1 hectares)

Rajibananda Gohain from Gereki village in Biswanath district, Assam has been involved in fish farming but could practice it partially because of insufficient knowledge on the subject. He owned 5.3 acres of pond area and wanted to improve the condition of his pond while boosting his revenue stream by means of reasonable fish production. Through his Farmer Producer Company (FPC) in Biswanath district, he came to know about the CRP training programme on sustainable aquaculture practices under the Indo-German development cooperation project, EIAA (locally known as SAFAL), implemented by GIZ GmbH under the guidance of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Assam.

Armed with scientific knowledge of pond management, Rajibananda confidently applied his training and formed a 16-member cluster from his FPC to practice and promote sustainable aquaculture. Under his leadership, Sootea FPC secured a ₹58 lakh scheme under APART project, Department of Fisheries, Government of Assam, for constructing a hatchery and seed bank, purchasing a four-wheeler for fish transport, and building an office. Additionally, the FPC repaid a ₹10 lakh loan from Rang De within six months and acquired a solar freezer through the IGEN-Promotion of Solar Water Pump (PSWP) project synergy with SAFAL, GIZ India.

Rajibananda sourced high-quality spawn from ICAR-CIFA, Odisha, selling it to cluster farmers for a 100% profit. He received good feedback and plans to expand this business soon, recognizing its higher profitability.

- Completed 18 days of Residential Training programme for CRPs in Assam in 2022.
- Completed 9 days of Non-residential Refresher training for CRPs in Assam in 2023.
- Number of cluster farmers trained: 16
- Number of hours spent on training cluster farmers : 28 (14 chapters; 2 hours each)
- 180% increase in fish production\* on adoption of learnings from training.

## Income per cycle\*

- Before training: 1,08,000 INR (1188 Euros)
- After training: 3,50,000 INR (3850 Euros) (>100% increase)

## Specific Interventions

- Use of quality fish seed
- Stocking of recommended quantity of fish seed
- Regular water quality check using water testing kits



## SONMANI DEVI



I am getting more production than the previous year, and the economic condition of my family is also improving.



# SONMANI DEVI

**DISTRICT:** Nagaon

**STATE:** Assam

**FARMER INSTITUTION:** Borbeel FPC Ltd

**YEAR OF TRAINING:** 2022

**POND AREA:** 1.75 acres (0.7 hectares)

Mrs. Sonmoni Devi is a CRP, Board of Director member of her FPC, and also a cadre of the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM). Initially, Sonmoni was a subsistence farmer practicing fish farming with a 0.16 acre pond while focusing on paddy cultivation, which was insufficient for her family's needs. She saw potential in fish farming but lacked the necessary knowledge.

In September 2021, the Block Program Manager of Raha Block informed her about the CRP training programme on sustainable aquaculture practices under the Indo-German development cooperation project, EIAA (locally known as SAFAL), implemented by GIZ GmbH with local NGOs, under the guidance of the Department of Fisheries, Assam.

Excited to learn, Sonmoni registered with the farmer institution and attended training sessions, gaining valuable insights into sustainable practices. Her dedication paid off as her fish production doubled in the first season, allowing her to expand by adding a 0.3-acre pond. Recently, she leased an additional 1.25-acre pond, bringing her total water area to 1.75 acres. Training on Effective Microorganisms (EM) has significantly reduced her input costs by 40-45%. Now leading 25 cluster members, Sonmoni Devi's journey showcases the transformative impact of knowledge and perseverance, inspiring others to follow her path.

- Completed 18 days of Residential Training programme for CRPs in Assam in 2022.
- Completed 9 days of Non-residential Refresher training for CRPs in Assam in 2023.
- Completed 1 day training on activation and application of Effective Microorganism (EM) in 2024.
- Number of cluster farmers trained: 25
- Number of hours spent on training cluster farmers : 28 (14 chapters; 2 hours each)
- 100% increase in fish production\* on adoption of learnings from training.

## Income per cycle\*

- Before training: 20,000 INR (220 Euros)
- After training: 1,20,000 INR (1320 Euros) (>100% increase)

## Specific Interventions

- Scientific pond preparation and management
- Application of lime and organic manure
- Water quality test
- Adoption of EM application





## SANJIB KUMAR PHUKAN



I am now able to rear fish scientifically with the methods learned during the training programme and I am making more profits than before.





# SANJIB KUMAR PHUKAN

**DISTRICT:** Sonitpur

**STATE:** Assam

**FARMER INSTITUTION:** Naduar Meen Palon  
Samabai Samittee

**YEAR OF TRAINING:** 2023

**POND AREA:** 0.33 acres (0.13 hectares)

Sanjib Kumar Phukan, a resident of Naduar and a member of the Naduar Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), primarily worked in agriculture until he joined the CRP training programme on sustainable aquaculture practices under the Indo-German development cooperation project, EIAA (locally known as SAFAL), implemented by GIZ GmbH with local NGOs, under the guidance of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Assam in 2023. Eager to expand his knowledge, Sanjib also participated in a 3-day training program at the College of Fisheries, where he learned the technique of preparing natural fish feed using EM.

With this newfound expertise, he began rearing Indian Major Carps (IMC), Grass Carp, Silver Carp, and Common Carp in his 0.33-acre pond, located near his agricultural land. Sanjib's dedication was further supported by a solar pump he received through a government scheme by the Department of Agriculture, Assam. This solar pump became a lifesaver during the intense heatwave of May 2024, when many fish ponds in his village suffered mass fish deaths. Sanjib strategically ran the pump early in the morning to cool the water, ensuring the survival of his fish.

Understanding the challenges posed by his village's iron-rich water, Sanjib took an innovative step by constructing a sand filter along the bunding area of his pond. This filter effectively prevents iron seepage into the water, safeguarding the pond's ecosystem. By adopting sustainable aquaculture practices, Sanjib has created a thriving, chemical-free environment for his fish. His efforts not only protect the pond ecosystem but have also led to significant financial gains.

- Completed 18 days of Residential Training programme for CRPs in Assam in 2023.
- Completed 9 days of Non-residential Refresher training for CRPs in Assam in 2023.
- Number of cluster farmers trained: 15
- Number of hours spent on training cluster farmers : 28 (14 chapters; 2 hours each)
- 250% increase in fish production\* on adoption of learnings from training.

## Income per cycle\*

- Before training: 25,000 INR (275 Euros)
- After training: 40,000 INR (440 Euros) (60% increase)

## Specific Interventions

- Scientific pond management
- Use of solar pump for recirculation, and maintaining water temperature in peak summers
- Adoption of EM application

\*Values are based on personal communication and field visits

1 Euro = 90.16 INR (as on 22.01.2025)



## DEBESWARI KAKATI



Earlier, I didn't go out much, but now I've gained respect both in my household and community. My neighbors often come to me for guidance on practicing sustainable aquaculture.





## DEBESWARI KAKATI

**DISTRICT:** Morigaon

**STATE:** Assam

**PRODUCER GROUP:** Agragami PG

**YEAR OF TRAINING:** 2023

**POND AREA:** 0.33 acres (0.13 hectares)

Debeswari Kakati, a resident of Bangkhaigaon village in the Mayong block of Morigaon, Assam, once lived a quiet, simple life, supporting her husband in managing their household while he earned a living through agriculture and animal husbandry. Life took an inspiring turn in 2023 when Debeswari joined a CRP training program on sustainable aquaculture practices under the Indo-German Development Cooperation project, EIAA (locally known as SAFAL). This initiative, implemented by GIZ GmbH in partnership with local NGOs and guided by the Department of Fisheries, Government of Assam, offered her a new perspective and invaluable skills.

Although Debeswari's family owned a 0.33-acre pond, its potential was limited to personal consumption due to a lack of knowledge about sustainable aquaculture. The CRP training along with training on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) transformed her understanding, equipping her with skills in pond management, natural fish farming and cost-effective practices.

Debeswari now contributes to her family's income through fish farming and has earned a position as a Board of Directors (BoD) member in her local cooperative society, gaining community respect. She has also diversified her income by selling fish pickles through the cooperative. This initiative has further diversified her income streams and enhanced her entrepreneurial journey.

- Completed 13 days of Residential Training programme for CRPs in Assam in 2023.
- Completed 9 days of Non-residential Refresher training for CRPs in Assam in 2023.
- Completed 3 days of Non-residential training for PGS in Assam in 2023.
- Number of cluster farmers trained: 25
- Number of farmers trained on EM: 25
- Number of hours spent on training cluster farmers : 28 (14 chapters; 2 hours each)
- 100% increase in fish production\* on adoption of learnings from training.

### Income per cycle\*

- Before training: 9,000 INR (99 Euros)
- After training: 20,000 INR (220 Euros) (>100% increase)

### Specific Interventions

- Adoption of Effective Microorganism (EM) application
- Aeration by using bamboo sticks
- Scientific pond management
- Use of quality seed



## MADHAB SAHOO



This is for the first time I am doing fish farming and I hope that it will add extra income while providing organic fish to my family and others.





# MADHAB SAHOO

**DISTRICT:** Khordha  
**STATE:** Odisha  
**PRODUCER GROUP:** Bhargabi FPC  
**YEAR OF TRAINING:** 2023  
**POND AREA:** 0.48 acres (0.19 hectares)

Mr. Madhab Sahoo from Balipatna, Khordha, is a progressive farmer whose main income comes from paddy, pulses, and horticulture crops like ridge gourd, bitter gourd, beans, pumpkin, and brinjal. As the sole breadwinner for his family, Madhab always sought new and profitable farming ventures.

Though he dabbled in fish farming in a small pond for personal consumption, he didn't put much effort into it initially. When he learned about the CRP training programme on sustainable aquaculture practices under the Indo-German development cooperation project, EIAA (locally known as SAFAL), implemented by GIZ GmbH with local NGOs, under the guidance of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Odisha, he was eager to explore further. Madhab received extensive training on sustainable aquaculture practices and became a Community Resource Person (CRP) for the project.

The training also introduced him to the concepts of EM for enhancing fish growth. This technology, using locally available ingredients, aimed to boost plankton availability, reduce feed costs, and optimize profits, contributing to economic sustainability. Madhab applied his training and the use of EM in his 0.48-acre pond, and is optimistic to generate additional income for his family.

- Completed 15 days of Residential Training programme for CRPs in Odisha in 2023.
- Completed 4 days of Non-residential Refresher training for CRPs in Odisha in 2023.
- Number of cluster farmers trained: 18
- Number of hours spent on training cluster farmers : 28 (14 chapters; 2 hours each)
- 70% increase in fish production on adoption of learnings from training.

## Income per cycle\*

- Before training: 1,10,000 INR (1218 Euros)
- After training: 2,20,000 INR (2437 Euros) (>100% increase)

## Specific Interventions

- Adoption of EM application
- Factors affecting fish growth
- Use of quality fish seed



## ANITA DASH



The training programme made me conscious about the factors affecting fish growth and how to create low-cost feeds. This helped to reduce expenses while increasing profitability.





# ANITA DASH

**DISTRICT:** Kendrapara

**STATE:** Odisha

**FARMER INSTITUTION:** Maa Kharakhai FPC

**YEAR OF TRAINING:** 2023

**POND AREA:** 2 acres (0.8 hectares)

Mrs. Anita Dash, from Bajrapur in Kendrapara District, relies on rice farming and aquaculture as her primary sources of income. With two ponds totalling around 2 acres, Anita was using traditional methods for fish farming on one pond, mainly for personal consumption. Eager for guidance, Anita learned about the CRP training programme on sustainable aquaculture practices under the Indo-German development cooperation project, EIAA (locally known as SAFAL), implemented by GIZ GmbH with local NGOs, under the guidance of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Odisha. Anita actively participated in various capacity-building training sessions provided by the project, gaining valuable knowledge and skills.

This training made her more aware of factors affecting fish growth and pond preparation. Anita created an environment conducive to the healthy growth of Indian Major Carps (Rohu, Catla, and Mrigal). Over time, these efforts have led to successful and sustainable fish farming with significant positive outcomes. As a woman succeeding in a traditionally male-dominated field, her achievements inspire and empower other women to enter aquaculture.

Anita's story highlights the importance of knowledge, dedication, and commitment to sustainable practices in farming success.

- Completed 15 days of Residential Training programme for CRPs in Odisha in 2023.
- Completed 4 days of Non-residential Refresher training for CRPs in Odisha in 2023.
- Number of cluster farmers trained: 13
- Number of hours spent on training cluster farmers : 28 (14 chapters; 2 hours each)
- 108% increase in fish production on adoption of learnings from training.

## Income per cycle\*

- Before training: 1,16,000 INR (1284 Euros)
- After training: 4,50,000 INR (4984 Euros) (>100% increase)

## Specific Interventions

- Factors affecting fish growth
- Scientific pond management





## BASUDEV RATHA



**With hard work and dedication,  
one can overcome any challenges  
and build a successful business in  
fish farming.**





# BASUDEV RATHA

**DISTRICT:** Puri

**STATE:** Odisha

**PRODUCER GROUP:** Vegi Costa FPC Ltd

**YEAR OF TRAINING:** 2023

**POND AREA:** 2 acres (0.8 hectares)

Basudev, a resident of Bamanala Village in Odisha, quit his job six years ago to start a fish farming business. Initially, he faced numerous challenges, including managing fish seed quantities, calculating feeding rates, and understanding water quality and fertilizer use. In 2018, he encountered a setback when unwanted fish entered his pond, causing financial losses. However, Basudev did not give up.

Connecting with CRP training programme on sustainable aquaculture practices under the Indo-German development cooperation project, EIAA (locally known as SAFAL), implemented by GIZ GmbH with local NGOs, under the guidance of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Odisha, Basudev received essential training and support. This knowledge allowed him to make significant improvements to his fish farming operation. Incorporating crop cultivation into his business, Basudev diversified his income.

Starting with just one pond, he now operates seven. He produces high-quality fish fingerlings, which he sells to other farmers and exports to neighboring districts. Starting with minimal investment, Basudev's business is now worth 15 lakh rupees. He is also developing a demonstration farm to educate other farmers about fish farming practices and exploring new marketing strategies for his fish products. Basudev Ratha's story inspires other farmers, showcasing that fish farming can be a profitable and sustainable business.

- Completed 15 days of Residential Training programme for CRPs in Odisha in 2023.
- Completed 4 days of Non-residential Refresher training for CRPs in Odisha in 2023.
- Number of cluster farmers trained: 14
- Number of hours spent on training cluster farmers : 28 (14 chapters; 2 hours each)
- 340% increase in fish production on adoption of learnings from training.

## Income per cycle\*

- Before training: 1,50,000 INR (1661 Euros)
- After training: 7,00,000 INR (7754 Euros)(>100% increase)

## Specific Interventions

- Regular water quality check using water testing kits
- Stocking of recommended quantity of fish seed
- Informed decision for farm economics

\*Values are based on personal communication and field visits

1 Euro = 90.16 INR (as on 22.01.2025)



## AMIT DAS



**The training programme helped me to gain better understanding into fish culture and strive for self-dependence.**



# AMIT DAS

**DISTRICT:** Jajpur

**STATE:** Odisha

**FARMER INSTITUTION:** Krushak FPC Ltd

**YEAR OF TRAINING:** 2023

**POND AREA:** 2.5 acres (1 hectare)

Amit Das, a forward-thinking and progressive fish farmer, resides in Dasarathpur block, Jajpur. His agricultural journey began in 2010 and over the years, Amit has become a seasoned fish farmer, diversifying his agricultural pursuits by cultivating vegetables and managing paddy fields. His adaptability extends to his work with poultry, using leftovers from the poultry farm to feed fish, practicing integrated farming.

Amit's commitment to continuous improvement led him to join the Indo-German development cooperation project EIAA (locally known as SAFAL) implemented by GIZ GmbH through his FPC, assuming the role of a CRP. Managing three ponds with total water areas of 2.5 acres, Amit successfully cultured fingerlings and his hard work resulted in a remarkable fish production. He also supports neighboring fish farmers in his community, sharing his expertise and knowledge.

Mr. Das' journey exemplifies not only a thriving fish farming enterprise but also a beacon of inspiration for his community, nurturing a spirit of learning, collaboration, and sustainable aquacultural practices.

- Completed 15 days of Residential Training programme for CRPs in Odisha in 2023.
- Completed 4 days of Non-residential Refresher training for CRPs in Odisha in 2023.
- Number of cluster farmers trained: 15
- Number of hours spent on training cluster farmers : 28 (14 chapters; 2 hours each)
- 50% increase in fish production on adoption of learnings from training.

### Income per cycle\*

- Before training: 3,50,000 INR (3881 Euros)
- After training: 5,00,000 INR (5545 Euros) (43% increase)

### Specific Interventions

- Scientific pond management
- Stocking of recommended quantity of fish seed
- Water quality parameters





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