

## BUSINESS MEN TURNED TO - A PROGRESSIVE FISH FARMER

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Ornamental plants Diversification in farming is the need of the hour, in making decisions about diversification farmers need to consider whether income generated by new farm enterprises will be greater than the existing activities, with similar or less risk. While growing new crops or raising animals may be technically possible, along with the regular animal husbandry activity Inland fish farming gives an opportunity to establish themselves in better position for sustained income from farming sector.

Composite fish culture technology in brief involves the eradication of aquatic weeds and predatory fishes, liming; application of fertilizers on the basis of pond soil and water quality, stocking with 100 mm size fingerlings of Indian major carps-catla, rohu and mrigal, in regular supplementary feeding and harvesting of fish at a suitable time. The main aim of fish culture is to achieve the highest possible fish production from ponds and water resources. The techniques of fish cultivation involve both management of soil, water and husbandry of fish. Two criteria, less consumption of water by fish and high

fecundity, go very much in favour of fish cultivation. Fish provide high quality food rich in protein, vitamins and other nutrients necessary for human health and growth. The scientific based technology of composite fish culture aims at maximum utilization of the pond's productivity. Fast growing, non-predatory, non-compatible species of food fishes are cultured together with complementary feeding habits and capable of utilizing both the natural and supplementary fish food. At the same time one fish is useful to the other.

Mr. Sharekhan Shemsharekhan, presently aged 40 years, was born and brought up at Janawada Village, of Bidar district has started the inland fish farming after undergoing the training at ICAR – Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bidar. Initially Mr. Sharekhan Shemsharekhan interested in animal husbandry with regular technical advice and technical backup by Dr KVK Bidar Mr. Sharekhan started the construction of inland fish pond of size of 1 acre in his non usable agricultural land. During 2022-23 ICAR- KVK Bidar has demonstrated a composite fish farming under front line demonstration (FLD), KVK has been supplied with 6000 fish finger lings which includes Catla, Rohu and Common carp to the farmer from the Fisheries Research Information Center (FRIC), Bhutnal, Vijapura. Dr. Akshay Kumar, Scientist (Animal Science) in his supervision after releasing the fish fingerlings in the pond, every day farmer has fed



them with fish feed and a mixture of wheat flour, rice bran and pulverized ground nut oilcake (GNOC) procured from market. He started harvesting fish after 10 months of release and has sold 3.5 tons of fish each weighing around 1.2 – 1.5 kg. Earlier he had invested Rs. 2 lakhs in production costs in addition to the construction of fish pond and total investment within one year with a satisfactory profit as well. This is accounting to a total business of Rs.3.85 lakh per annum. This could not have been possible without the support, service, technical help and motivation from

the KVK Bidar & State Fisheries Department says Mr. Sharekhan.

By the initial support of KVK he is taking up Inland fish farming. He earns from sale of fishes. Now his farm has become visiting spot for the beginners of fish farmers and he has become farm youth icon to the surrounding villagers. The success of Khan does not stop here. He has inspired dozens of farmers towards fisheries activities to become fish farmers. It is now a model fish farm model fish farm.

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