

Fisheries Entrepreneurship development in Gujarat State : An Information for the Fishpreneur

Yuvraj Rajput

PGIABM, JAU, Junagadh, Gujarat

SUMMARY

This article showcases about the Fisheries Sectors and the opportunities to that an entrepreneur can grasp in Gujarat state. So this sector can grow to its maximum potential and we can get more entrepreneurs which grows the Indian agricultural economy with their potential and help to bring out Blue Revolution more in its form.

INTRODUCTION

Gujarat is the state with the longest coastline in India. Which is 1600 km of the total length of India. The state of Gujarat, which has a coastline (28% of the total), is located in the North-Eastern Hemisphere on the coast of the Arabian Sea in the south of the Asian continent and in the west of India. There are two Gulfs (1) Gulf of Kutch and (2) Gulf of Khambhat along the coast of Gujarat and many small and big ports In which the development of many types of industries has been seen from ancient civilizations from ship breaking industries to fishing industry. A total of 15 districts of Gujarat are connected to the coast. Which includes Kutch, Morbi, Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Junagadh, GirSomnath, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad, Anand, Bharuch, Surat, Navsari, Valsad. After the establishment of a separate State with effect from 1st May 1960, the Department of Fisheries was established in the same year and a separate Director of Fisheries was entrusted with the responsibility as head of the department. In this way, fisheries activities and various schemes have been implemented through various welfare schemes for the development and employment of the fishermen of the state. Fisheries are an important sector of the Indian economy and play a crucial role in socio-economic development. Apart from fisheries production, the sector is important as it contributes significantly to national food, security, employment and livelihood generation, agricultural diversification and foreign exchange earnings. Fish production in the state of Gujarat With a rich diversity of marine and inland fish species, Gujarat occupies a leading position in fisheries production in India. The total production of the state of Gujarat in the year 2023-24 is 8,99,828 MT. In which marine 7,04,828 MT. and inland 1,95,000 MT. Which is leading in terms of production compared to other states of India. Fish species like Katla, Rohu, Ranifish, Ghol, Tuna etc. leading the fish production in the sea coast of Gujarat state. In which Ghol fish has been declared as state fish by Gujarat state.

Marine Fisheries:

Gujarat State has the longest coastline about 1600 km in India and is a State having a very strategic location in India. Gujarat state is at the top position in Fisheries as it is at the west coast of India and it covers 1/5th part of India along the coast as well as it is an exclusive economic zone. It contributes about 20% of total marine production. In the marine sector, the State department of fisheries carried out various regulating and welfare activities for protection, conservation, development and regulation of marine fisheries in the State of Gujarat. The Fisheries Department, Government of Gujarat, dedicated to the protection, conservation, development, and regulation of marine fisheries in the state.

Inland Fisheries:

Gujarat, from a freshwater fisheries perspective, is endowed with 3.48 lakh hectares of reservoirs, 0.22 lakh hectares of village ponds and tanks, and 3865 km of rivers and canals—all of which have significant potential for both capture and culture fisheries. According to the 2007 census, approximately 2.31 lakh fishermen and fish farmers are associated with inland fisheries in the region.

Brackish Water Aquaculture :

Brackish water Aquaculture is the fish farming that takes place in the bay area where the salt water of the sea and the fresh water of the river meet naturally. In which mainly shrimps are reared. There is a total of 3.76 hectares of saline lands in the coastal area of Gujarat state, which is not suitable for agriculture or agricultural

related activities. But by developing shrimp farming activity in this area, the people living in the coastal area should get livelihood. About 89,000 hectares of saline lands available in the state is suitable for aquaculture.

Brackish water fisheries are practiced in the coastal districts of Gujarat state such as Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Bharuch, Anand, Bhavnagar, Amreli and Girsomanath districts. Entrepreneurship opportunities in the Fisheries Sector There are lot of entrepreneurship opportunities in the emerging Aquaculture sector, though in initial stages. However, entrepreneurship development requires a push from the government and other institutions and it is encouraging to see some incubation centers coming up in this sector since the last five years. Though there is provision for technical support from the industry, we need financial support to sustain incubation of startups and help them accelerate and grow. When it comes to handling risks in this sector, if the business becomes sustainable, the risks get mitigated. Unlike what happened to Shrimp Farming in the 1990s with the occurrence of diseases, leading a setback to investments, inland aquaculture has remained sustainable over many decades. Nevertheless, they need insurance coverage since they are prone to losses during natural calamities like floods and cyclones.

Skilling as a catalyst for Blue Revolution

The major aim for skill development in agriculture and allied sectors is to double the farmers' income by doubling the production. In fisheries sector, Government of India has implemented the Blue Revolution Scheme, a flagship programme to increase the fish production to 15 MMT by 2020., out of India's production of 10 million metric tonnes, marine fisheries produce around 3 to 4 million metric tonnes. It cannot be stretched much, as our potential is only 4.5 million metric tonnes by exploiting 80% of the resources. So, doubling the production is not possible 3 through marine fisheries. It is here that Aquaculture can be potentially used to increase fish production. We have to sustain the livelihood of the fishermen and also maintain the targeted production. For this we need huge infrastructure and skilled workforce. As per this year's budget, government has provided an outlay of Rs 10,000 crores for National Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Scheme mainly for developing the infrastructure and environment for the sustainable development in this sector with multi-stakeholder involvement. Skill development forms a crucial part of the scheme to take forward the initiatives of increasing the fish production and improving the farmer's income It is a challenge to convert the mindset of the institutions and capacity building providers to bring them to a skill-based training program. As of now, they indulge only in knowledge—based, theoretical learning with minimum focus on skills. Most of the institutions lack quality trainers, infrastructure and environment for long-term skill-based training. We are planning to take help from the industry and private sector for this purpose. We are in the process of identifying potential training partners, training the trainers, master trainers, curriculum and content development, etc. to speed up skilling programmes in fisheries sector to meet the skilled manpower requirement. Aquaculture is one of the fastest-growing industries. India offers great fishing chances in both marine and interior waters, with its huge coastline zone. The country's 2.36 million hectares of swamps and tanks, a coastline of 7,500 km, and a brackish water surface of 1,1 million have been placed second in the global aquaculture market, providing a fish farming area. In India, fishing is a livelihood for over 28 million people in the country.

Opportunities for business development

Gujarat offers a conducive business environment for the fisheries sector, leveraging its extensive coastline of over 1,600 kilometers and abundant marine resources. The state government promotes aquaculture and fishery development through various schemes, providing financial assistance, subsidies, and training programs for entrepreneurs. Gujarat's strategic location facilitates access to domestic and international markets, enhancing export opportunities. Additionally, the presence of modern infrastructure, including ports and cold storage facilities, supports the supply chain. With a growing focus on sustainable practices and technology adoption, Gujarat is poised for significant growth in the fisheries industry, attracting investments and fostering innovation.

Benefits for Fisheries Entrepreneur in Gujarat

Fisheries entrepreneurs in Gujarat enjoy several benefits that foster growth and sustainability in the sector. The state boasts a long coastline, providing access to abundant marine resources and diverse fish species. The Gujarat government actively supports fisheries development through various schemes, offering financial assistance, subsidies, and training programs to enhance skills and productivity.

Additionally, the presence of modern infrastructure, including well-equipped ports and cold storage facilities, facilitates efficient supply chain management and enhances market access. Entrepreneurs can tap into both domestic and international markets due to Gujarat's strategic location. The state's emphasis on sustainable

practices encourages responsible fishing and aquaculture methods, promoting environmental conservation. Furthermore, initiatives promoting research and innovation enable entrepreneurs to adopt advanced technologies, improving yield and operational efficiency. With a supportive ecosystem and growing consumer demand for seafood, Gujarat presents a promising landscape for fisheries entrepreneurs to thrive and contribute to the economy.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, fisheries entrepreneurship in Gujarat is poised for significant growth, supported by abundant resources, government initiatives, and modern infrastructure. The state's commitment to sustainable practices and innovation fosters a conducive environment for entrepreneurs. By leveraging these advantages, fisheries entrepreneurs can enhance productivity, access broader markets, and contribute to the local economy. With continued support and investment, Gujarat can emerge as a leader in the fisheries sector, driving both economic development and environmental sustainability.

REFERENCE

<https://cof.gujarat.gov.in/Home/Introduction>