

Section – 1 : Executive Summary

Karnataka State inland fisheries have become an important employment generating enterprise in the recent years. Fisheries have gained importance in the state and national economy as a source of nutritious food, foreign exchange and employment. The Karnataka State has 6.33 lakh inland fishermen of which, 1.39 lakh (17%) are actively involved in fishery activity.

Karnataka State inland fisheries have become an important employment generating enterprises in the recent year. The Department of Fisheries has taken many initiatives to increase the State inland water fish production and started many programmes for increasing employment opportunities. Due to these programmes, the state inland fish production is increasing considerably. The Government, Department of Fisheries felt necessary that inland fishermen should be assisted in purchase of nets and other fishery requisites.

In order to purchase the nets and other fishery requisites, fishermen use to purchase through private money lenders by paying higher prices; and they use to lose nets and other fishery requisites very often due to floods in river and reservoirs. To overcome this, the Government of Karnataka started a new scheme from the year 2009-10 titled “**Distribution of Fishery Requisites Kits**”. From 2009-10 to 2012-13, the subsidy for kit was Rs.5,000/- per beneficiary which is enhanced to Rs.10,000/- from the year 2013-14. Karnataka Evaluation Authority and Department of Fisheries felt that there is need for evaluation of the scheme. The work was entrusted to TECSOK.

Objectives of the Study

- To understand the overall success of the scheme
- To evaluate the process of implementation of the entire scheme
- To study the organizational and administrative problems and loopholes if any in the effective implementation of the programme
- To assess the impact of the programme on employment, earnings and levels of the fishermen
- Modifications / improvements if any in the scheme for the benefit of fishermen
- Overall impact of the programme on the inland fish production of Karnataka.

The Department of Fisheries felt that there is a need for Evaluation of the Scheme as there is substantial financial implication on account of release of grant for the purchase of fishery requisite kit. From the year 2009-10 to 2013-14, around 23,407 beneficiaries has been covered under the scheme at the cost of Rs.1,355 lakhs. Considering the achievement made under the scheme that have taken place over a period of time, the department of fisheries and Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA) had proposed to conduct evaluation of the scheme “**Distribution of Fishery Requisites Kits**”. Accordingly, KEA entrusted the task of conducting evaluation of the scheme to TECSOK in their letter No.KEA 175 EVN 2015, dated 16.9.2015.

The methodology followed for the study comprises obtaining responses from the beneficiaries and other stakeholders through designed questionnaires and discussion.

Team of officers of TECSOK visited the tanks, reservoirs, rivers & canals, GP and departmental tanks and had discussion with 962 beneficiaries were interviewed, obtained information from 29 implementing officers, 31 Fisheries Co-operative Societies and Focus Group Discussion were held, data has been collected through structured questionnaire and the same thing has been incorporated in the report for evaluation.

- Based on the discussion held with the beneficiaries, stakeholders, Department of Fisheries officials and implementing officers viz., Director, JD, DDs, SADs, ADs Grade-1 & 2, FCS, Focus Group Discussion (FGD), elected representatives. As per ToR (1-14) & based on field visit and data analysis consolidated observations are made.
- 962 beneficiaries are covered as per the ToR for the study. Accordingly, 29% beneficiaries are covered in Bengaluru Zone and 6% are covered in Uttara Kannada Zone. Out of 962 beneficiaries, 842 beneficiaries are male (88%) and 120 are female (12%).
- 334 (35%) beneficiaries belong to SC community, 152 (16%) ST, 339 (35%) OBC, 105 (11%) BCM and 32 (3%) Physically Handicapped.
- Majority of the implementing officers (69% to 72%) have expressed Criteria, the fishermen should be the member of Fisheries Co-operative Society for the last 3 years

and the fishermen should possess Fishing license for inland and / or reservoir fishing for the last 3 years is not fair, acceptable and inappropriate.

- From the available data, 68% of the beneficiaries have expressed that, the life of FISHERY REQUISITE KIT supplied is less than 6 months and 39% of FCS members have expressed FISHERY REQUISITE KIT supplied is poor quality to the beneficiaries.
- Large numbers of beneficiaries (30 taluks) have expressed the content of FISHERY REQUISITE KIT is in-adequate and expressed dis-satisfaction. Department of Fisheries officials have expressed that the number of FISHERY REQUISITE KIT available for distribution is in-adequate this is due to 3.61 lakh fishermen are actively involved in fisheries activities and demand for FISHERY REQUISITE KIT is high and Department of Fisheries officials are required to meet the physical and financial target allocated under FISHERY REQUISITE KIT scheme.
- Based on the demand, Department of Fisheries may provide complete kit required by the beneficiaries comprising appropriate mesh size net (for different water body viz., river, tank, riveroin, reservoir), floater, head rope, bottom rope, adequate number of sinkers, weighing scale, life jacket, crate, ice box, etc.
- The beneficiaries have expressed need for the fibre glass coracle, ice box, two wheeler, weighing scale and fibre glass boat.
- Almost all the fishermen demanded FISHERY REQUISITE KIT. The budget allocated is insufficient to cover the entire fishermen under the scheme.
- As per the Government Order, the same beneficiaries can avail second time assistance three years after receipt of first time assistance but Department of Fisheries officials of Shivamogga and Ballari zones have covered more number of beneficiaries extending second time assistance to the same beneficiaries in Sagar, Hospet and Sandur taluks.
- Preference of the beneficiary is important as the beneficiaries demand FISHERY REQUISITE KIT items depending on fishing activity carried out in different type of water body.

- There is an increase in catch per unit effort of fishing; there is no increase in frequency of fishing. There is reduction in borrowing from private financiers, increase in income and economic improvement both tangible and intangible income.
- The recommended total cost of net, requisites and allied properties for fishing for BPL is Rs.25,000/- and for APL is Rs.20,000/-. The cost of net and requisite is Rs.7,375/- (4 to 5 kg of cast net, sinkers, floaters, head and bottom rope), cost of coracle is Rs.10,500/-, cost of bicycle is Rs.4,000/-, cost of allied properties viz., ice box, life jacket, weighing scale, bicycle is Rs.3,125/-.
- The quantum of reduction in the cost of kit is in the order of 25% to 40%.
- Overall, the scheme has not made any difference in increasing the frequency of fishing whereas, it has marginally increased catch per unit effort, annual fish catch, earning and increase in earning after the implementation of fishery requisite scheme.
- The Department of Fisheries officials have informed that the scheme has helped the beneficiaries in increasing per capita income and economic condition there by their living standard has improved. The scheme has also helped the beneficiaries improving their self-esteem after the implementation of the scheme.
- FISHERY REQUISITE KIT is a direct employment generating scheme which is popular among BPL fishermen in the rural area wherein the fishermen are directly benefitted to carry out fishing activity for their livelihood.
- During our discussion with the Department of Fisheries officials, beneficiaries and stakeholders, it was found random allocation of fund was done and the fund has not been sanctioned and released as per the proposal.
- The scheme is useful for the traditional fishermen and fishing folk in general to continue of fishing activity for their livelihood, this has created self-employment and they would be in a position to continue livelihood depending on fisheries activity. The dependency of the fishermen for the fishery requisite kit is to gain financial benefit which is more beneficial to them in terms of reduction in cost of net as these men otherwise use to borrow money from private money lenders / middlemen by paying high rate of interest. The scheme has helped the fishermen in reducing borrowing from money lenders and

there is marginal increase in income. Based on data analysis and personal discussion with the beneficiaries, Department of Fisheries officials, FCS office bearers and FGD, it is found that there is a demand for FISHERY REQUISITE KIT scheme.

Conclusions

- Government Order on criteria for selection and rejection of application, scheme implementation procedure is not full-fledge, clear and complete.
- Scheme is not implemented based on demand survey of traditional and inland fishermen, requirement of net and requisites to suit fishing in pond, tank, reservoir and river.
- Benericiaries are not provided with adequate quantity, quality and appropriate size net and requisites for fishing which has not prevented them from borrowing.
- During selection of beneficiaries, priorities are not given for traditional and BPL fishermen.
- Distributed fair quality of net and requisites.
- Violation of guideline by extending second time assistance within three years to the same beneficiaries.
- Frequency of fishing has not increased.
- Average catch per unit effort has marginally increased.
- FISHERY REQUISITE KIT distributed and demand does not match.
- By and large the objective of the scheme has been fulfilled by way of increasing self-employment, income generation, empowerment, life style, etc.
- The scheme has created positive impact.
- The scheme has covered almost active fishermen and impacted their living condition.
- FISHERY REQUISITE KIT distributed was utilized for the purpose for which it was provided.
- There is transparency in identification of beneficiaries by following scheme guidelines.

The scheme has created self-employment for the beneficiaries making them more confident and dependent on assistance of government thereby empowering them. If government assistance is not given, the fishermen would borrow money from the private money lenders in order to continue fishing activity for their livelihood, it does not mean that they are less confident, more dependent on government assistance, thereby dis-empowering them but for the financial benefit, availability of fair quality kit in time and marginal increase in the profit, catch per unit effort of fishing, increase in tangible and intangible income, the beneficiaries depend on the scheme. In view of this, FISHERY REQUISITE KIT scheme is recommended for continuation.

Recommendations

Short term

- Periodic and Random Quality check to assess quality of FISHERY REQUISITE KIT distributed in the certified laboratories.
- Re-look criteria for selection of the beneficiaries, guidelines, taking opinion of implementing officers and other stake holders.
- Maintenance of data at Taluk, District, Zone, Head Office regarding information of beneficiaries such as date of distribution of FISHERY REQUISITE KIT, items distributed quantity and specification.
- GPS data for traceability, accountability, periodic monitoring etc.,

Long term

- There can be two schemes, one for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and another for Above Poverty Line (APL). BPL can be given bigger kits than APL.
 - Increase the quantum of assistance of FISHERY REQUISITE KIT from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.25,000/- for beneficiaries Below Poverty Line and Rs.20,000/- for beneficiaries Above Poverty Line.
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- Kits to be re-designed in consultation with the fishermen and also net size.
- Separate guideline has to be formulated for coastal inland fishermen.
- The kit needs to be re-designed to suit different water bodies such as pond, tank, reservoir and the river.
- Continue FISHERY REQUISITE SCHEME.

Recommendation requiring Change in Policy

- Survey of BPL / traditional fishermen and fishermen in general to know the actual number of inland fishermen in the state.
- Demand assessment survey to be conducted in order to know the water bodies, and availability of water to carry out fisheries activity.
- Demand assessment survey to assess appropriate, quantum, quality and quantity of FISHERY REQUISITE KIT requirement.
- Comprehensive policy for overall development of fishermen and increase in fish production.
- It is suggested that, regular training may be given to the stakeholders including Fishermen, Elected representatives, Government functionaries for effective implementation of project.
- Women may be encouraged to participate in Fishing Activities.
- For monitoring the projects appropriate technology (IT/MIS/GIS) may be used.
- Apart from impact evaluations, concurrent evaluation of the programme should also be entrusted on regular intervals to assess mid-term modification of the programmes.

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