

## General Studies-3; Topic – economics of animal-rearing.

### Blue Revolution in India

#### 1) Introduction

- Blue Revolution has the vision to achieve economic prosperity of the country and the fishers and fish farmers.
- It also aims to contribute towards food and nutritional security through full potential utilization of water resources for fisheries development.
- The Blue Revolution envisages transformation of the fisheries sector with increased investment, better training and development of infrastructure.

#### 2) Blue Revolution

- Realizing the immense scope for development of fisheries and aquaculture, the Government of India restructured the Central Plan Scheme under an umbrella of Blue Revolution.
- Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries (CSS) approved by the Government provides for a focused development and management of the fisheries sector.
- This is to increase both fish production and fish productivity.
- The Blue Revolution is being implemented to achieve economic prosperity of fishermen and fish farmers.
- It is to contribute towards food and nutritional security.
- It is also expected to augment the export earnings with a focus on increased benefit flow to fish farmers to double their income.
- Blue Revolution will focus on construction of new fishing harbours, modernization of fishing boats, imparting training to fishermen, and promote fishing as a self-employment activity.

#### 3) India's Potential

- India has large natural resources, and water bodies such as ponds & tanks, wetlands, brackish water, cold water, lakes & reservoirs, rivers and canals
- In addition to it India has 8,118km-long coastline. So it is well positioned to have a Blue Revolution
- Largest species of fish are found in India, and there is also a tremendous scope for breeding of colourful ornamental fish.

#### 4) Government Initiatives

- Under the Blue Revolution scheme, 29,128 hectares has been developed for aquaculture.
- The government has approved Rs 7522 crore Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).
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- National Fisheries Action Plan-2020(NFAP) with an aim of enhancing fish production and productivity and to achieve the concept of Blue Revolution.

#### 5) Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

- This fund will create employment opportunities to over 9.40 lakhs fishers/ fishermen/ fisher folks and other entrepreneurs in fishing and allied activities.
- It can attract private investment in creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities.
- This would boost fish production and help achieve target of Rs 15 million tonne by 2020 set under Blue revolution.

### 6) Success Stories in Various States

- Gujarat shifted from an insistence on cooperatives as lessees of ponds and tanks to a public auction and changed the tenure of lease from a single year to several years.
- This created a huge incentive to the entrepreneurs.
- This increased the production manifold.
- Private entrepreneurs strengthened the ponds, replenished water when it started drying up, and spent money for protection against poachers.
- Cage fisheries in large reservoirs seem to be yielding good results in Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.
- Cage aquaculture involves the growing of fishes in existing water resources while being enclosed in a net cage which allows free flow of water.

### 7) Concerns / Challenges

- Concern over stagnation of production of marine fisheries.
- **Resource quality issues**
  - a. It pertains to the length of time for which adequate water would be standing in a waterbody
  - b. Alternate demands on the same waterbody
  - c. Water quality problems resulting from these alternate demands.
- **Socio-economic issues around the resources**
  - a. Limited rights over the waterbodies
  - b. Security and length of tenancy when these are leased
  - c. Poaching of fish
- **Techno-managerial issues**
  - a. Availability of spawn, seedlings and fingerlings on time
  - b. Availability of necessary feed and medicines
  - c. Access to markets and working capital.
- There is a major issue with ponds and tanks in most parts of the mainland in India —these are typically multiple-use waterbodies.
- These multiple-use waterbodies, therefore, are unreliable for fish production unless managed well.
- Absence of formal working capital arrangements for funding smooth and efficient fisheries.
- Challenges such as environmental threats, disease risks and trade barriers.

### 8) Way Forward

- Deep sea fishing would require large investments and we have to explore possibilities of public-private partnership.
- The government must design intelligent lease agreements and enable working capital supply.
- Marine capture fisheries should be exploited more in the country.
- These resources could be used for ensuring food security and poverty alleviation.

### 9) Facts for Prelims

- World Fisheries day is celebrated every year on November 21 throughout the world by fishing communities.
- 'World Fisheries Forum (WFF)' was established to advocate a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies.
- India is the second largest producer of fish, however, it still lags China by a huge margin.
- In India inland fisheries output is more compared to marine fisheries output.
- Central Institute of Fisheries Education is a deemed university and a centre of excellence in the field of fisheries and allied subjects.