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Adoption of improved fish farming practices in Ri-bhoi district of Meghalaya

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Abstract

The present study was conducted to assess the adoption of improved fish farming practices in Ri-bhoi district of Meghalaya. A total of 106 respondents was selected for this study. Meghalaya with its vast inland fishery resources in the form of rivers, reservoirs, lakes and ponds and an average rainfall of 1200 mm offers tremendous scope for developing the fisheries sector. The Ri –Bhoi district of Meghalaya has unique topographical condition that prevail fish farming practices.. Descriptive research design was used for this study. Selection of respondents was done by random sampling, Operationalisation of variables of both independent and dependent variables was used Collection of data was done by interview schedule and appropriate statistical tools was used for interpretation of the data. The age, education, occupation, annual income and fish farming experience of the fish farmers showed positive significant relationship with the adoption behaviour of the respondents.

Keywords: Adoption, improved fish farming, practices

Introduction

Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic animals and plants. Globally the aquaculture sector witnessed a growth of over 8 percent per annum in the past two decades and fish production reached about 53 million tons in 2008. There are about ten million fish farmers around the world, most of them living in developing countries and using low intensity production methods. Globally 60 percent of the aquaculture is undertaken, in fresh water followed by 32 percent and 8 percent in salt and brackish water respectively. However the brackish water systems tend to concentrate on higher value species and account for 13 percent of production value (FAO 2010) [2]. Meghalaya with its vast inland fishery resources in the form of rivers, reservoirs, lakes and ponds and an average rainfall of 1200 mm offers tremendous scope for developing the fisheries sector, but lags behind in harnessing the potential of these natural resources. The Ri –Bhoi district of Meghalaya has unique topographical condition. Consequently the district is blessed with vast and varied water resources in the forms of rivers, reservoirs, beels, lakes, swamp, pond, mini barrages and low lying paddy. The district shared maximum 20 per cent in total area of pond/mini barrages of the state followed by 10.2, 9.23 and 2.46 per cent in case of reservoirs, rivers, and beels, lakes etc. respectively.

Methodology

The present status was conducted in purposively selected district Ri-Bhoi in Meghalaya which contributes highest fish production in the fish basket of the State. Further, out of the three block in Ri-bhoi district, Jirang block was selected purposively thereafter 9 villages and 106 respondents were selected randomly.

The data was gathered using pre-tested interview schedule. Collected data were analyzed by the application of suitable statistics and draw the inference.

Results and Discussion

A. Socio-economic characteristic of the respondents

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Table 1: Socio-economic profile of the respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
A. Age		
Young(Up to 35 years)	21	19.82
Middle (36 -50)	38	35.85
Old(above 50)	47	44.33
B. Educational Status		
Illiterate	37	34.91
Primary education	38	35.84
Middle school	29	27.35
Others	2	1.90
C. Religion		
Hindu	1	0.94
Muslim	1	0.94
Christian	102	96.22
Others	2	1.89
D. Caste		
ST	101	95
General	1	0.94
Others	4	3.77
E. Marital status		
Married	98	92.46
Unmarried	7	6.60
Divorcee	1	0.94
Total	106	100.00
F. Family Type		
Nuclear	84	79.24
Joint	22	20.76
G. Family sizes		
Small(1 to 5 members)	38	35.84
Medium (6 to 10 members)	32	30.19
Large(Above 10 members)	36	33.97
H. Occupational Status		
Fish farming plus agriculture	75	70.75
Fish farming plus business	9	8.50
Fish farming plus other in service	22	20.75
I. Annual Income		
Low (Below 30000)	24	22.64
Medium(30001 to1 Lakh)	78	73.59
High(Above 1 Lakh)	4	3.77
J. Types of house		
Kaccha(hut)	8	7.54
Semi-cemented	55	51.89
Cemented	43	40.57
K. Fish farm size		
Small(Below 1 hect)	24	22.64
Medium(1-2 hect)	48	45.29
Big(Above 2 hect)	34	32.07
L. Fish farming experience		
1 to 2 years	9	8.50
Above 3 years	97	91.50

The table 1 indicated that 44.33 per cent were old aged, followed by the middle aged 35.85 per cent and young 19.82 per cent, 70 per cent of the respondents were literate, 96.22 per cent are Christian, 95 percent are ST, 92.46 percent are married, 79.24 percent of the respondents were having Nuclear families, 35.84 per cent are having 1 to 5 members in their families, 70.75 per cent are practicing fish farming cum agriculture, 73.59 per cent are getting medium income, 51.89 per cent are having semi-cemented house, 45.29 per cent are having 1 to 2 hectare of fish farm area and 91.50 per cent had experienced fish farming for more than 3 years. Similar findings is also reported by Sathiadhas, R. and Panikkar, K. (1988) [6] and Singh, R. (1983) [7]

Table 2: Overall Distribution of socio economics status of the respondents (n=106)

Sl no	Socio economic status	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low socio economic status (<23)	17	16.13
2	Medium economic status (24-26)	74	69.81
3	High economic status (>27)	15	14.16
TOTAL		106	100

The table 3 reveals that (69.81 %) of the respondents are having medium economic status, (16.13 %) are having low economic status and only (14.16 %) are of high economic status.

B. Adoption of fish farming practices

Table 3: Overall distribution of respondents based on extent of adoption of fish farming practices (n=106)

Sl no	Categories	Scores	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	9 to 11	34	37.08
2	Medium	12 to 15	56	52.83
3	High	16 to 18	16	15.09
Total			106	100.00

It is observed from the table above that (52.83%) are of medium level adoption, (37.08%) are of low medium level and (15.09%) are of high medium level. The findings is in the line of findings of Bolorundoru PI and Adesehenwa AOK (2004) [1]

Relationships between the selected independent variables and their information seeking behaviour

Relationship between the selected variables with the information seeking behavior of the fish farmers were worked out by calculating coefficient of correlation 'r'. The results in this regard are presented as under.

Table 4: Coefficient of correlation (r) between the selected characteristics of the fish farmers and their information seeking behaviour

Focus variables	Characteristics of the fish farmers	Coefficient of correlation (r)
Information seeking behaviour of the fish farmers	Age	0.671653 **
	Educational status	0.058678 *
	Religion	0.134802 NS
	Caste	0.342387 NS
	Marital status	0.289 NS
	Family type	0.190903NS
	Family size	0.849053NS
	occupation	0.0180083**
	Annual income	0.0560606*
	Types of House	0.749721NS
	Size of fish farm	0.927104NS
	Fish farming experience	0.0593964*
	Knowledge	0.0126034**

* Correlation is significant at 5% level of probability

**Correlation is significant at 1% level of probability

NS= Non-Significant

From the table 3 it is observed that age, educational status, occupation, annual income, fish farming experience, knowledge was positively and significantly related to the information seeking behaviour. Similar findings is also reported by Hossain (2010) [3],

Conclusions

It is concluded from the present study that majority of the respondents have medium level of socio-economic status. It was found that majority of the respondents have medium level of adoption of improved fish farming practices. It is due to their medium level socio-economic background of the respondents.

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