

Fish Farming for household consumption and a source of additional income

I dropped out from school after five due to family problems and have been working on my lands. I have 3.5 acres of upland, 1 acre of medium land, 2 acres of low land and a small pond - 300 square feet in size. I cultivate rice, finger millet, groundnut, green gram, black gram, pigeon pea in my land, and also do fish farming in my small pond. I have learned many things from the LANSa project of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, such as - line transplanting of finger millet, establishing a nutrition garden of fruits and vegetables, also the benefits of eating different types of foods.



I learned about introducing diversity in the cropping system and gained technical knowledge on use of pesticides from the project staff. But I feel I have benefitted most from fish farming. In the first year (2013-14), I attended a training programme on improved fish farming organised under the project. I cleaned the pond and applied appropriate quantity of lime proportionate to the pond size as suggested during the training. After 15 days, I released 1000 fingerlings. For fish feed, I put rice bran everyday and four baskets of cow dung once a week in the four corners of the pond to promote plankton growth, for a period of 4-5 months. I harvested 40 kg of fish from the small pond in two harvests. We used six kg of fish at home and the remaining 34 kg was sold in the village at Rs.120/- per kg. I used the money to purchase clothing for my family. Earlier, I used to get 20-25 kg of fish from this pond, but now with quality fingerlings and improved production practices, I was able to harvest double. So, if we follow the improved practices of cleaning the pond before stocking, applying lime according to pond size to maintain the water quality, use the recommended quantity of cow dung with regular and timely feeding, then growth of the fish will improve and yield will increase.



Name : Ghenu Khillo
Village : Atalguda,
Block: Boipariguda, District: Koraput
Age : 30 years
Caste : Rana (OBC)
Occupation : Farmer (6.5 acres)
Family size : 6 (3 adults, 3 children)

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