Rice-Fish Integrated Farming System for Small Farmers

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In India, although six million hectares are under rice cultivation in rainfed medium-deep water areas, only 0.03 per cent of this is now used for rice-fish culture. The rice fish integrated farming system integrates components such as improved rice varieties, fish, prawn, *Azolla*, duck, poultry, fruit crops, floriculture, apiculture etc. The scale of the intervention perfectly sets tune for small scale livelihood opportunities for marginal farmers. This system is highly acceptable in eastern India because of the resources, food habits and other social conditions. Small scale rice-fish integrated farming system can be a regular income earner for marginal farmers.

Entrepreneurial Opportunity

- Developing a 0.5 acre small scale rice-fish integrated farming system with compatible component like rice (0.24 acre), fish (0.08 acre), poultry (120 nos.) & cow (1 no.) would cost Rs.1, 26, 863.
- A net profit of Rs. 50, 024 per year can be accrued from sales realization of Rs. 1, 48, 120.
- The benefit to cost ratio is 2.0-2.5.
- Breakeven point can be achieved in 1st year itself.
- Annually, 0.30 t of rice, 0.15 t of fish, 1.25 t of meat, 0.6 t of straw for animal feed and 1920 liters of milk can be realized from the 0.5 acre rice-fish integrated farming system.
- This is a bankable technology and is supported by NABARD and lead banks. Seventy per cent bank financing can be availed for the project.

Salient Features

- This rice-fish integrated farming system increases farm productivity by more than 15 times and net income up to 20 folds over the traditional system of rice farming.
- This is an eco-friendly synergistic system, which promotes recycling of wastes within the system.
- Rice yield increases from 5-15% besides reduction in use of pesticides and other chemicals.
- The positive interaction results in enrichment of soil nutrient status, better crop nutrition & bio-control of weeds.
- It optimally utilizes family labor.
- The rice-fish integrated farming system technology has already been adopted in small, medium and large commercial farms in Odisha

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