



ICAR-CIBA - a nodal R&D agency working in brackishwater aquaculture for the past three decades with a vision of environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially acceptable aquaculture technologies. System interventions, technology backstopping and policy inputs, contributing to economic benefits of the sector which has already recorded annual export revenue of ` 20,000 crores, apart from domestic consumption.



## HOMESTEAD BACKYARD PEARLSPOT SEED REARING UNIT A LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT ACTIVITY FOR THE CLAM COLLECTING COASTAL FAMILIES

“Homestead backyard pearlspot seed rearing unit” (was established as a homestead activity by CIBA for the clam collecting coastal families of Kundrakadu village, Kovalum, Kancheepuram dt. TN.

Pearlspot (*Etroplussuratensis*) is an indigenous ornamental fish having a local delicacy, herbivorous feeding habit and round the year juvenile production. Through parental care, pearlspot makes it a desired candidate species for diversification practices for brackishwater aquaculture.

Pearlspot (*Etroplussuratensis*) 2000 nos. with the average size of 1.0 cm (range 0.8 cm to 1.2 cm) obtained from fish hatchery, Muttukkadu Experimental station of CIBA was stocked in 4 concrete tanks @ 500 nos. each (in a hatchery shed of 200 sq.ft (20x10ft.).

Feeding was done by supplying formulated pellet feed developed by CIBA @ 3-5% body weight daily. After 52 days of culture, the fish attained the average weight of 0.8 gm (0.6g to 1.1 g) with the total length in the range of 2.8 cm - 3.6 cm (3.2 cm).

A total of 1865 nos. of pearlspot was harvested from all the tanks and there by indicated the successful nursery phase rearing with the survival rate of 93.3%. The cost of production worked out for the production of 1865 seed was Rs.2500/- (seed cost @ Rs.1.0 /- seed and feed cost Rs. 500/-).

The beneficiaries earned a net profit of Rs. 4960/- after deducting the seed production cost (Rs.7460 - 2500 = Rs. 4960/-) out of 2000 seeds reared in 4 tanks.

Marketable size pearl spot fetched Rs.4/- piece in retail market. It is estimated to earn Rs. 12,400/-if the beneficiaries operate seed



Pearlspot seed rearing unit at Kunnakadu, Kovalum, Kancheepuram dt.



Construction of Pearlspot seed rearing unit before and after



Assessing the brooders



Collection of juvenile for packing



Supply of feed



Collection of juvenile for packing



Packing the Pearlspot fish

production in 10 rearing tanks and can earn a monthly income of Rs.6200/-. These beneficiaries saved their profit money earned from this intervention by opening a joint bank savings account. Market linkages were created through CIBA and also with the ornamental hub at Chennai for marketing pearlspot fish.

These coastal families in were the first beneficiaries in this village to take up this intervention. This technology adoption has enhanced the group's savings in bank. The coastal men have become more aware of the inequalities and have given more power to the women in decision making and have supported them in this intervention adoption.



Beneficiaries and officials with the packed Pearlspot fish

This intervention proves that adoption of brackishwater aquaculture technology has given them an alternative livelihood, to learn a new avocation, to earn an additional income to improve the standard of living and socio-economic improvement of coastal community.



Beneficiary receiving the pearlspot seeds for stocking from Shri.Chhabilendra Roul, Special Secretary, DARE, Govt. of India & Secretary, ICAR in the presence of Dr. K.K.Vijayan, Director-CIBA

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