

Impact of Farm Ponds on Aquaculture Farming: A Case Study of Nashik District in Maharashtra

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1. Introduction:

Agriculture Geography is one of the most highly developed branches of geography of the twentieth century. An understanding of the principles of operation of capture and culture fisheries helps to throw light on the definition of aquaculture. The expressions capture and culture fisheries are self-explanatory. In the former, one reaps the aquatic harvest without having to sow, whereas, in the latter, one has to sow the seed, nurse it, tend it, rear it and harvest it when it grows to marketable size. Examples of capture fisheries are the natural fisheries of the seas, estuaries, rivers, lagoons, large lakes and farm ponds etc.

The principles of management of capture and culture fisheries are very different from each other. In the case of capture fisheries one has to attempt to harvest maximum sustainable yield by regulating fishing effort and mesh after taking into account parameters of population dynamics such as rates of recruitment, natural and fishing mortalities, fish growth and size at which recruitment occurs. Management of capture fisheries requires knowledge of the dynamics of the fish populations under exploitation. The extended exclusive economic zone of 200 miles brings into focus the national and international complexities of regulating the capture fisheries of the seas and the oceans and apportionment of the marine harvest because fish populations do not abide by man-made boundaries.

A definition of aquaculture can be attempted.

Aquaculture is an industrial process of raising aquatic organisms up to final commercial production within properly partitioned aquatic areas, controlling the environmental factors and

administering the life history of the organism positively and it has to be considered as an independent industry from the fisheries hitherto.

Aquaculture is organized production of a crop in the aquatic medium. The crop may be that of an animal or a plant. Naturally, the organism cultured has to be ordained by nature as aquatic.

2. Study Area:

Nashik district is one of the parts of deccan plateau is located in the northern parts of the western ghats. The latitudinal and longitudinal extent of district is 19°33' to 20°53' north and 73°16' to 74°16' east. Area of Nashik district is 15530 square kilometers. It ranks fifth in state with 5.04% area. According to the census of 2011 the population of the study area is 6109052 while the rural population is 3056000. The density of population of study area is 393 per square meter. These rural populations are engaged in agriculture.

This district consist of 15 tahsils, namely Chandwad, Devala, Dindori, Igatpuri, Kalvan, Malegoan, Nandgaon, Nashik, Niphad, Peth, Satana, Sinnar, Sugana, Trimbakeshwar, Yevale. The average height of study areas from mean sea level is about 600m. The average rainfall in this region only 100 to 110 cm. Nashik district is famous for the grape, sugarcane, onion, pomegranate, cotton and other vegetables.