

## **2.7. Fisheries**

Fisheries Sector has been recognized as one of the powerful income and employment generators as it stimulates growth of a number of subsidiary industries. Fish being a source of cheap animal protein, is an important source of diet for a large section of economically backward population of the country. Fisheries is the only sector that offers cheap and good animal protein to the people, particularly to the economically weaker sections of the society. Thereby, it serves as a means for ensuring national food security. It is also a major contributor towards foreign exchange earnings for the country through export of fish and fish products. The potential of forward and backward linkages through boat building, construction of fishing harbours, fish processing etc., contribute further to diversification and strengthening of regional and national economy.

Tamil Nadu, with its 1076 kms coastline, 1.9 lakh sq kms of EEZ and a continental shelf of 41,442 sq kms is one of the leading producers of both marine and inland fish and has emerged as a major exporter of sea foods. About 72883 M.T. of marine products were exported during 2006-07 from Tamil Nadu. There are 591 marine fishing villages in the state, with a population of about 8.17 lakhs, of which 2.62 lakhs fishermen are actively engaged in fishing.

There are three major fishing harbours: at Chennai, Tuticorin and Chinnamuttom; four minor ones at Pazhayar, Valinokkam, Colachel and Nagapattinam. Apart from the harbours, other infrastructure facilities like fish landing centres, cold storages, ice plants, link roads, etc., have been created. To improve the socio economic condition of the fisherfolk, the Department is implementing various programmes with Central sector assistance and some programme with State funds. At present, about 6700 mechanised fishing Boats and 47542 traditional crafts (17471 vallams and 30071 catamarans) are engaged in marine fishing, utilizing the infrastructure developed. The marine fish catch potential in Tamil Nadu is estimated

at 389714 lakhs tonnes from the EEZ (369676 lakh tonnes from less than 50 metres and 20038 lakhs tonnes from the Deep Sea).

### **Performance of 2007-08**

An outlay of Rs. 52.72 crore is expected to be spent under the Fisheries sector during 2007-08.

The details of fish production achieved during 2006-07 and expected to be achieved during the 2007-08 and the target set for 2008-09 are furnished below:

#### **Details fish production**

(in '000 tonnes)

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Marine</b>	<b>Inland</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.	2006-2007 Achievement	392.191	160.172	552.363
2.	2007-08 Achievement	395.000	170.000	565.000
3.	2008-09 Proposed target	415.600	202.400	618.000

### **Objectives**

The main objectives proposed are:

- To increase fish production by encouraging fisherman to exploit the underutilized fishery resources to reduce fishing pressure in the inshore areas.
- To augment aquatic resource production in the inshore areas through conservation measures, stock enhancement, establishing of artificial reefs etc., along the coast.
- To promote sustainable eco friendly coastal aquaculture.
- To improve and strengthen infrastructure facilities for fish landing and marketing.

### **Programmes**

The following programmes to achieve the above objectives are proposed in the Annual Plan 2008-09:

#### **I. Inland Fisheries**

Tamil Nadu has enormous scope for inland fisheries development. However, the entire requirement cannot be fulfilled

using the available infrastructure. To bridge the gap in the field of fish seed requirement, the Government of Tamil Nadu will put into use all the available fish seed farms in a big way and will also encourage private fish seed farmers. This will help to fill the gap between the fish fingerlings production and the requirement. The Government of Tamil Nadu will also take cage farming in suitable reservoirs to increase the fish production.

The inland fisheries sector has about 3.71 lakh ha's of water spread area comprising of reservoirs, major irrigation and long seasonal tanks, short seasonal tanks and ponds, estuaries, backwaters, etc., which are suitable for both capture and culture fisheries. About 5,000 ha of water spread area is being utilised for fresh water aquaculture under the programmes of Fish Farmers Development Agencies.

The total estimated brackish water area of Tamil Nadu is about 56000 ha. The total area under shrimp farming is 6340 ha. against the potential area of 14880 ha. readily available for shrimp farm development.

### **Fish seed production and collection for stocking**

In Tamil Nadu, there are 52 reservoirs with a total water spread area of 52,000 ha. The fish production from these reservoirs small, medium and large has been estimated at about 50 kg/ha/year, 12.5 kg/ha/year, 11.5 kg/ha/year. To tap the inherent biological productivity of the reservoirs and to improve the socio economic conditions of the fisher folk depending upon the inland water resources, it is proposed to formulate an integrated approach to develop reservoir fisheries in Tamil Nadu at a total cost of Rs.7.50 crore to be developed in a phased manner. An amount of Rs.20.02 lakh is proposed for 2008-09.

### **Fish Culture in open waters**

Non-utilization of seasonal tanks not only results in low production but also in reduction of employment in rural areas. It is

proposed to develop 6,000 ha of short seasonal tanks for fish culture every year. The total cost for developing open water fish culture per year works out to Rs.75.00 lakhs per year. A total sum of Rs.3.75 crore is required for developing 30,000 ha of short seasonal tanks within a span of 5 years.

### **Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies Restoration and Management (IAMWARM) Project**

IAMWARM Project is a World Bank funded project to be implemented in 63 sub basins in 6 years with a project cost of Rs.17.30 crore. For the year 2007-08, 12 sub basins have been selected for which detailed project proposals for 9 sub basins was sent to Government and the Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.313.67 lakh.

The following Sub Basins were taken up for first Year (2007-2008)- 1. Varahanadhi, 2. Uppar-Vellar, 3. South Vellar, 4. Arjunanadhi, 5. Kottakaraiyar, 6. Manimuthar, 7. Pambar, 8. Aliyar and 9. Palar. It is proposed to implement the scheme with an outlay of Rs.2.01 crore during 2008-09.

### **Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board**

The Government of Tamil Nadu has announced that all benefits given under the landless agricultural labourers and farmers (social security and welfare schemes) will be extended to the fishermen also. Under this Scheme, the fisherwoman who are doing sale of fresh and dry fish will also be included, Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 5 crore for this purpose for the year 2007-08. An amount of Rs. 5.00 crore is proposed for 2008-09.

### **3) National Savings-cum-Relief Scheme for Marine Fishermen (25:25:50)**

Under this scheme, as per Government of India norms, a sum of Rs.75/- per month shall be collected from the beneficiary fisherman for a period of 8 months in a year. The total sum of Rs.600/- thus collected will be matched by the State and Central Governments with Rs.300/- each. Thus, a sum of Rs.1200/- will be

disbursed to the beneficiary during the four lean months. During 2006-07, 1,79,853 fishermen were benefitted. For the year 2007-08, a sum of Rs.15.19 crore has been sanctioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu. 1,14,445 members have received benefits in 10 coastal districts. For the remaining 3 Districts, distribution of benefits will commence by March 2008. [An amount of Rs. 18.11 crore is proposed for this scheme.](#)

#### **4) Group Accident Insurance Scheme for Fishermen**

Under this scheme, both the State and Central Government will pay the total annual Insurance premium of Rs.14/- per beneficiary fisherman. No premium is collected from the fishermen. The premium is being shared equally on 50:50 basis by the State and Central Government. The fisherman will be given Rs.50,000/- in case of death / permanent disability and Rs.25,000/- for partial disability.

For the year 2007-08, it is anticipated that around Rs.1.80 lakh fishermen will benefit from the scheme at a cost Rs.21.58 crore.

#### **5) Sales Tax Exemption on sale of Diesel Oil used by Fishermen**

This scheme envisages 100% exemption from payment of Sales Tax for the purchase of HSD oil by fishermen to be used for fishing activities. In addition to the reduction of the cost of diesel paid by fishermen, the Govt. of Tamil Nadu enhanced the quantity of sales tax exempted diesel from 1000 to 1500 liters for the benefit of fishermen.

### **Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

#### **1) Development of Fish Landing Facilities**

##### **(i) Construction of 10 Fish Landing Centres (50:50)**

The construction work has been completed in 9 places. Work at Veerapandiapattinam has been suspended due to law and order problem. Completion report in respect of Fish Landing Centre at Mudasalodai and Pulicat was sent to Government for onward transmission to Government of India.

***(ii) Construction of Fishing Harbour at Thengapattinam***

Government have accorded administrative sanction for construction of Fishing Harbour at Thengapattinam in Kanniyakumari District at a cost of Rs.30.55 crore under centrally sponsored scheme (50:50 )

***(iii) Construction of Fishing Harbour at Colachel***

Government have accorded administrative sanction for construction of Fishing Harbour at Colachel in Kanniyakumari District at a cost of Rs. 23.50 crore under centrally sponsored scheme (50:50)

***(iv) Construction of Poompuhar Fishing Harbour***

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai was entrusted with the work of carrying out Model studies and preparing EIA / EMP studies for the proposed fishing harbour at Poompuhar. An amount of Rs.3.50 crore is proposed for the year 2008-09 as State share.

**2) Construction of Mechanised Fishing Boats (50:50)**

Government have increased the subsidy from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/- for purchase of outboard motors to be fitted in traditional crafts. Motorization of traditional crafts helps the fishermen to go to the fishing grounds on their will and return to shore with their catches using the shortest route and time. Thereby they can sell their catches at better price and earn a good income out of their catches without any wastage/spoilage. An amount of Rs.1.6 crore is proposed for the year 2008-09 as State share under this scheme.

**3) Assistance to Fishermen for Purchase of Diesel (100%)**

As against a requirement of Rs 19.91 crore, a sum of Rs.1.00 crore has been sanctioned by the Government of India and the amount has been disbursed to the beneficiaries. So far, 367 mechanised fishing boat owners have received assistance under the scheme. Proposal for release of second instalment of Rs.50.00 lakh

has been sent to the Government on 26.7.2007. An amount of Rs.1.00 crore is proposed for this scheme for the year 2008-09.

#### **4) Development of Post harvest infrastructure facilities (100%)**

In order to ensure higher profit margin to the producers ultimately aiming for faster fisheries development and for strengthening of post harvest infrastructures such as storage facility, insulated transportation and for marketing through vendors, it has been proposed to establish such facilities with financial assistance at an estimated cost of Rs.1.00 crore. Under 100% grant, so far Government of India have funded Rs.50.00 lakh as first instalment and second instalment is to be received. Under this scheme, 4 insulated mini trucks have been purchased and are put into use.

#### **Tsunami Relief Schemes**

##### **Work under Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project (TEAP) with loan assistance from Asian Development Bank – Fisheries**

Repairs and Rehabilitation of FLCs/FH (Fish Landing Centres/ Fishing Harbours) - The repair and rehabilitation works were taken up in the following places Cuddalore, Mudasalodai, Sethubavachatram, Kottaipattinam, Jegathapattinam, Punnakavayal Work has been completed in 6 sanctioned places and work will be completed during 2008-09.

Dredging works- The Department has proposed to dredge the following: Mudasalodai FLC, Pazhayar FH, Sethubhavachatram and Mallipattinam FLC, Kottaipattinam and Jagathapattinam FLC, Punnakavayal FLC and Chinnamuttom FLC at a cost of Rs. 6.80 crore. Based on the Environment clearance obtained from the Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority, the Government of Tamil Nadu has forwarded the proposals to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests for issuing of the environmental clearance.

Investigation Studies on Cooum, Adayar and Cuddalore- Out of these 3 places, Cooum and Adyar are found to be not suitable for

conventional crafts. Hence it is planned to conduct study only in Cuddalore backwaters. ADB has proposed the evaluation report for conducting studies at Cuddalore backwaters through Mahindra Consulting Engineers Ltd. The Study consists of IEE (Initial Environmental Examination) and EMP (Environmental Management Plan) along with the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

**World Bank assisted schemes under Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project (ETRP)**

Reconstruction and Modernisation of 4 Fishing Harbours- Consultancy Service for reconstruction and modernisation of Fishing Harbour work was entrusted to M/s. SMEC International (P) Ltd., Australia. The contract agreement was signed on 6.9.2007. The study needs 12 months and the execution will be taken up after the study. The execution period will be 18 months. M/s. SMEC International (P) Ltd., Australia has furnished the inception report.

Permanent opening of 4 Bar Mouths- Consultancy service for permanent opening of bar mouths was entrusted to M/s. WAPCOS, Gurgaon. The contract agreement was signed on 13.3.2007. The study has commenced and it is being monitored closely. Inception report has been furnished by them. Further studies are in progress. The consultancy work is expected to be completed before 31.12.2007.

Construction of New fish landing centres for Nagoor and Annankoil - The consultancy service for construction of new fish landing centres was entrusted and is being taken up.

Seamless Communication Network for 13 Coastal districts (Equipments and Office)- The Project Sub committee has proposed the technology and cost implication for the technological solution based on which EOI (Expression of Interest) was called for. ELCOT has been fixed as the agency for executing the Seamless communication Network at a tentative cost of Rs.78.50 crore. The proposal has been placed before the Empowered Committee for approval.

**Outlay for 2008-09**

An amount of Rs. 94.74 crore is approved for the year 2008-09 under Fisheries sector.