

## **2.7. Fisheries**

Fisheries Sector has been recognized as one of the powerful income and employment generators as it stimulates growth of number of subsidiary industries. Fish being a source of cheap animal protein, it is an important source of diet for a large section of economically backward population of the country. It is also a major contributor towards foreign exchange earnings for several countries including India, through export. 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.

The country with a long coastline of 8118 Kms. has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending to 2.02 million Sq.Kms. comprising of 0.86 million Sq.Kms. on the West Coast, 0.56 million Sq.Kms. on the East Coast and 0.60 million Sq.Kms. around Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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. There are 591 marine fishing villages in the state, with a population of about 8.17 lakh, of which 2.62 lakh 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 (17,471 vallams and 30,071 catamarans) are engaged in marine fishing, utilizing the infrastructure developed. The marine fish catch potential in Tamil Nadu is estimated at 3,89,714 lakh tonnes from the EEZ

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

The inland fisheries sector has about 3.71 lakh ha of water spread area comprising of reservoirs, major irrigation and long seasonal tanks, short seasonal tanks and ponds, estuaries, backwaters, etc., which are suitable both for capture and culture fisheries. The total estimated brackish water area of Tamil Nadu is about 56,000 ha. The total area under shrimp farming is 6006.42 ha against the potential area of 14880 ha readily available for shrimp farm development.

The following Programmes are proposed in the Annual Plan 2009-2010:

### **Inland Fisheries**

Tamil Nadu has enormous scope for inland fisheries development. However, with the already established infrastructures alone, the entire requirement cannot be fulfilled. As such, to bridge the gap in the field of fish seed requirement, all the available fish seed farms will be utilized apart from encouraging private fish seed farmers. This will definitely fill the gap between the actual fingerlings production and the requirement. It is also proposed to take up the cage farming in suitable reservoirs to increase the fish production.

#### ***1) Fish Seed Production and Collection for Stocking***

The fish seed production from these different categories of reservoirs of 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.219.00 lakh and this is to be developed in a phased manner. The programme will have the following components:

- Installation of cages / pens for rearing of stocking material
- Stocking of quality fish seed in required quantities
- Provision of suitable craft and gear for beneficiaries

- Construction of landing centres and retail marketing facilities and
- Organisation of Co-operatives and training of Co-operative members and selected fishermen in scientific management of reservoir fisheries.

By implementing these schemes, it is expected that the inland fish production of the state will increase by 2700 tonnes. About 10,000 fishermen will be directly benefitted and larger number will be indirectly benefitted by ancillary and support activities.

### ***2) Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Resources Management Project (IAMWARM)***

IAMWARM Project is a World Bank funded project to be implemented in 63 sub basins in 6 years. An amount of Rs.17.30 crore have been sanctioned for Fisheries components in 63 sub basins. For the year 2007-08, 9 sub basins were selected for implementation of Fisheries activities with an outlay of Rs.313.67 lakh and for the year 2008-09, 16 sub basins were selected for fisheries activities with an outlay of Rs. Rs.424.00 lakh. Under this programme, 217 Aquaculture farm ponds, 2 Fish Seed Banks, 17 Fish seed rearing in cages, 2942 ha under Aquaculture in irrigation tanks, Improvement to 2 Government Fish Seed Farms, setting up of 9 Ornamental fish culture Units, supply of 55 Fishing implements and 6 Fish Kiosk are being programmed.

### ***3) National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP)***

Government of India have introduced a new Additional Central assistance scheme to incentivise the States to draw up plans for their agriculture sector more comprehensively taking into consideration agro-climatic condition, natural resources issues and technology and integrating it to livestock, poultry and fisheries. An amount of Rs.703.50 lakh was sanctioned for the year 2007-08 for implementing fisheries development scheme namely Fish culture in check dams under forest department involving village forest council, River ranching as a measure of conservation of endangered / endemic species as well as to enhance fish production,. Repair and renovation of existing fish seed farms, Creation of additional space for fish seed production and rearing in Neithalur (Thanjavur

District), Study tour of farmers, Upgradation of Extension Centres in Tamil Nadu, Cage culture of fishes in inland waterbodies, Setting up of Modern Fish stalls in major cities in Tamil Nadu. Further, the Government have sanctioned Rs.60.00 lakh towards the provision of chill room facilities in major fish landing centres during 2008-09.

The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) has agreed in principle to allocate a sum of Rs. 157.00 lakh for the implementation of various schemes during the year 2009-10.

## **Marine Fisheries**

### ***1) Construction of Fishing Harbour***

This is a Centrally sponsored scheme with 50:50 share between Centre and State.

#### *a) Construction of Fishing Harbour at Thengapattinam*

Government of India have accorded sanction for construction of fishing harbour at Thengapattinam in Kanniyakumari District at a cost of Rs.30.55 crore (revised estimate Rs.40 crore). The Government of India released a sum of Rs. 200.00 lakh as first instalment as Central share.

#### *(b) Construction of Fishing Harbour at Colachel*

Government have accorded sanction for construction of Fishing Harbour at Colachel in Kanniyakumari District at an estimated cost of Rs.27.10 crore and released a sum of Rs.53.13 lakh as first instalment against the Central share. Necessary environmental clearance has been obtained and the tenders are called for, for the construction of Eastern and Western break waters and are in progress.

#### *(c) Construction of Poompuhar Fishing Harbour*

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. Final report on the model study and EIA / EMP reports have been received from NIOT. Director, Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has furnished his technical opinion on the report. Since the proposed site falls under the control of

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the site plan and other particulars were sent to ASI for getting No Objection Certificate (NOC). Moreover, it was decided to conduct off shore survey, since marine archaeology findings at the proposed site and other works were entrusted to Alagappa University.

### ***2) 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 an year. The total sum of Rs.600/- thus collected will be matched with 50% contribution i.e. Rs.300/- each by the State and Central Governments. Thus, a sum of Rs.1200/- will be disbursed to the beneficiary during the four lean months. During 2007-08, 1,76,017 fishermen were benefitted. For the year 2008-09, Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.2089.03 lakh (enrolled beneficiaries 1,74,086). Disbursement of relief amount in 10 Districts has commenced during October 2008. For the remaining 3 districts, distribution will commence by March 2009. The scheme will be continued during 2009-10.

### ***3) Construction of Mechanised Fishing Boats (50:50)***

Government have increased the subsidy from Rs.10000 to Rs.20000 for purchase of outboard motors to be fitted in the traditional crafts. Motorization of traditional crafts helps the fishermen to go to the fishing grounds at their will and return to shore with their catches at the shortest route and time, thereby they can sell their catches at better price and earn good income out of their catches without any wastage/spoilage. During 2007-2008, the Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.210.00 lakh including 50% State's share of Rs.105.00 lakh for distribution of 1050 outboard motors. For the year 2008-09, proposal for Rs.400.00 lakh towards the supply of Out Board Motors (OBM) have been sent to the Government. Orders of the Government is awaited. Government of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs.50.00 lakh towards its share. Proposal has been sent to the Government for financial release. The scheme will be continued during 2009-10 also.

#### ***4) Savings-cum-Relief Scheme for Marine Fisherwomen***

Under the scheme, a sum of Rs.75/- per month shall be collected from the beneficiary fisherwoman for a period of 8 months. A sum of Rs.600 would be provided by the State Government. Thus, the sum of Rs.1200/- will be equally distributed to the beneficiary during the 4 lean months. During 2007-08, an amount of Rs.1258.62 lakh has been disbursed to 1,14,288 marine fisherwomen beneficiaries of 13 Coastal districts. Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.1261.00 lakh for the year 2008-09. The scheme will be completed by December 2008 for 10 Districts and for the remaining 3 Districts, it will be completed by July 2009.

#### ***5) Sea Ranching of Shrimp Seeds for Stock Enhancement***

To enhance biological productivity and fisheries resources in coastal waters and to help in conservation of fisheries resources, a scheme on sea ranching of commercial shrimp species is implemented by the department. It is proposed to stock PL 15-20 shrimp seeds in 2 places in the State at a total cost of Rs.20.00 lakh. Action is being taken to stock the shrimp seeds.

#### ***6) Pilot Project on Demonstration of Cage Farming in Inland Water Bodies***

The inland fishery resources of Tamil Nadu are estimated at 3.71 lakh ha. of water spread area. To increase fish production, cage farming is a promising option available. At present, about 20 to 25 kgs per ha. is achieved as production from reservoirs. To enhance the same and to achieve 150 to 200 kgs/ha by cage farming, it is proposed to take up this activity in a suitable place at a total cost of Rs.4.80 lakh. The Government sanctioned a sum of Rs.4.80 lakh. The Work is under progress.

### **Other Programmes**

#### ***1) Fishermen Free Housing Scheme***

Proposals for raising the unit cost and ratification for the action taken to permit the beneficiaries themselves to construct their houses and to release funds on stage payment by Executive Engineer, Fishing Harbour Division concerned have been sent to the Government. Orders are awaited.

For the year 2006-07 under State Scheme, a sum of Rs.740.00 lakh was released to the Director, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai to take up the construction of houses. The amount released to the Director, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai was returned back stating that construction of houses could not be carried out within the unit cost of Rs.37000. Government has been addressed to fix the executing agency. Government have nominated the Fishing Harbour Project Circle (FHPC), Chennai as the Executing Agency from 2005-06 onwards. Accordingly, funds (Rs.740 lakh) for the construction of 2000 houses were released to the Fishing Harbour Project Division (FHPD), Nagercoil and Nagapattinam through S.E (FHPC) Chennai with the beneficiary list. Also the E.E. (FHPD) concerned were requested to release the stage payment to the beneficiaries for the construction of houses by themselves.

For 2007-08, under State Scheme, proposal has been sent to Government for Rs.740.00 lakh for construction of 2000 houses. Sanction is awaited. Since no orders were received from the Government, the funds allotted have been surrendered. For 2008-09, a sum of Rs.740 lakh has been provided in the B.E. The scheme will be continued during 2009-10.

## ***2) 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.50000 in case of death / permanent disability and Rs.25000 for partial disability.

During the year 2007-08, Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.38.90 lakh as premium amount towards 50% State Government's share and 5,55,744 fishermen have been insured. The entire amount has already been drawn and disbursed to Fishermen Co-operative Federation (FISHCOFED), New Delhi. 158 members have been benefitted and Rs.76.07 lakh had been disbursed. Proposal for insurance coverage beyond 09.12.2008 through TN Fishermen

Welfare Board has been sent to the Government for sanction of state share of premium amount of Rs.38.79 lakh.

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

Repairs and Rehabilitation of Fish Landing Centres (FLCs) /Fishing Harbours (FH) -Government have accorded sanction for carrying out repair and rehabilitation works to the damaged fishing harbours and fish landing centres viz:-cuddalore, Mudasalodai, Sethubavachatram, Kottaipattinam, Jagathapattinam and Punnakarayal under Asian Development Bank assisted TEAP. Work has been completed in the sanctioned places at a sum of Rs.76.40 lakh.

Dredging works - Under this scheme, the basins of 6 fishing harbours and fish landing centres are to be dredged for easy navigation for fishing operations and for safe berthing of fishing boats at a cost of Rs.680 lakh. The approval of ADB is awaited. Investigation Studies on Cuddalore backwaters is being pursued.

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

*Reconstruction and Modernisation of four Fishing Harbours*

Under this scheme, it is planned to reconstruct and modernize the fishing harbours at Nagapattinam, Mallipattinam, Pazhayar and Chinnamuttom on par with International Standards. Consultancy service towards preparation of DPR was entrusted to M/s. SMEC International (P) Ltd., Australia. Studies are nearing completion. The consultancy service provider M/s. SMEC International (P) Ltd., Australia has furnished the Techno economic feasibility report for the above project. The studies are nearing completion and detailed project report is expected before the end of November 2008.

On finalization of detailed project report, draft bid documents and tender notice will be prepared and approval will be obtained from the World Bank. On receipt of the approval from the World Bank, execution will be completed in a period of 18 months.

### *Permanent opening of 4 Bar Mouths*

Under this scheme, it is planned to create suitable structures for permanent opening of four river bar mouths viz., Pulicat in Thiruvallur District, Uppanar in Nagapattinam District, Vellar in Cuddalore District and Tambiraparani in Tuticorin District for easy navigation of fishing boats from river to sea for carrying out fishing operations. On receipt of the approval from the World Bank, execution will be completed in a period of 18 months.

### *Construction of two New Fish Landing Centres*

It is planned to construct fish landing centres with infrastructure facilities at Nagore in Nagapattinam District and Annankoil in Cuddalore District. Detailed Project report was prepared. Approval from World Bank for float tenders is awaited. On finalization of tenders, construction work will be completed in a stipulated time.

It is also proposed to implement the Seamless communication Network for 13 Coastal districts (equipments and Office) through M/s ELCOT.

### ***5) 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 the Scheme, the fisherwomen who are doing sale of fresh and dry fish will also be included. Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.500 lakh for this purpose. The Act came into force with effect from 29.06.2007 for giving continuous relief. As on 31.10.2008, a total of 304870 applications were issued and 179234 forms have been received back. The applications were processed and 119324 fishermen labourers were enrolled and 82422 of them were issued with ID cards. So far, 444 claims were received from fishermen and 203 claims were sanctioned with relief / assistance of Rs. 621250 under various schemes of the Board. The remaining claims are being processed.

### ***6) 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. The price paid by fishermen for diesel is reduced approximately by Rs. 5.94 for every litre of diesel. The Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 2006-07 have enhanced the quantity of Sales Tax exempted diesel from 1000 litres to 1500 litres with effect from August 2006 for the benefit of mechanised fishing boat fishermen. During the last year, 5000 mechanised fishing boat fishermen and 15200 country craft fishermen had been benefitted.

### ***7) Fishermen Training Centres***

Fishermen trainees have already been paid a stipend of Rs.200/- per month. This amount was increased to Rs.400 per month and for the entire 10 months period each trainee will get Rs.4000. 300 fisher youths will be benefitted from this training programme. So far 10849 youths have been benefitted.

### **Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

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

To alleviate the sufferings of the mechanised fishing boat operators, the Government reimburses the excise duty by way of subsidy towards the purchase of HSD to bring down the running cost of mechanised fishing boats. The Government of India have sanctioned Rs.3.00 crore as subsidy for 2007-08 as 100% assistance. So far, 1537 beneficiaries had been benefitted under this scheme during 2007-2008 and a sum of Rs.296.58 lakh has been given to the beneficiaries. For the year 2008-09, Government have allocated Rs.500 lakh for the implementation of the scheme. A proposal to the tune of Rs.2949.35 lakh has been sent to the Government on 7.5.2008. Now the Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.300 lakh as first instalment.

#### ***2) 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 infrastructure such as storage facility, insulated transportation and for marketing

through vendors, it has been proposed to establish the post harvest infrastructure facilities with financial assistance at an estimated cost of Rs.100 lakh. Under 100% grant, so far the Government of India have funded Rs.50 lakh as first instalment this year.

*3) Development of Cold Water Fisheries (75:25)*

Tamil Nadu is endowed with rich Cold Water Fishery Resources. The Nilgiris in the State has been declared as a biosphere reserve. It has been proposed to establish a trout hatchery at The Nilgiris at an estimated cost of Rs.51.50 lakh by availing State and Central funds. All the works at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 lakh (Government of India grant of Rs.20 lakh and Tamil Nadu Government grant of Rs.5 lakh) have been completed. For the year 2008-09, proposal to the tune of Rs.17.38 lakh have been sent to the Government of India for release of second instalment. The scheme will be continued in the year 2009-10.

**Plan Outlay for 2009-10**

An amount of Rs. 101.80 crore is approved for the year 2009-10 under Fisheries sector.