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Present status of fish farming and pond conditions from Basti and Gonda districts, Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Fish ponds operate as an open ecological system where natural and technological processes are built on one another and are implemented in a non-separable way. Pond fish farms contribute to preserve biodiversity. In both districts the composite fish culture technology is commonly followed for fish farming with six species combination *i.e.* Indian Major Carps (IMC) *i.e. Catla, Rohu* and *Mrigal* (Nain) and Exotic Major Carps (EMC) *i.e.* Silver carp, Grass carp and Common carp. There are 14 blocks in Basti district in which 3848 number of ponds are found. These ponds cover 1040.42 ha of water spread area. There are 16 blocks in Gonda district. The number of ponds is 4471 with water spread area of 3706.86 ha. The total productions of fishes are 1800 ton/year in Basti district while 3850 ton/year in Gonda district. The average productions are 2800 kg/ha/ year and 3000 kg/ha/year in Basti and Gonda districts, respectively. The data indicated that the Gonda district have more potential in fish production compared to Basti district. The maximum ponds were of less than 1 hectare in both districts. The respondents were 68% in Basti district and 76% in Gonda District. 82% and 70% respondents have leased pond in Basti and Gonda districts, respectively.

Figure : 00	References : 27	Tables : 05
KEY WORDS : Bas	ti, Composite fish culture, Fish farming, Gonda, Labeo rohita.	

Introduction

The importance of fish as a source of high quality and easily digestible protein, essential amino acids and poly unsaturated fatty acid is well understood ^{3, 6, 24}. It is argued that fish meat is generally cheaper than other animal's meat and contains protein levels of 17-20% as well as sufficient amount of minerals and vitamins^{4,13,25}. India offers a huge potential for freshwater aquaculture development. The Indian freshwater fish culture has evolved from the stage of domestic activity in West Bengal and Odisha to that of an industry in recent years. The states like Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are taking up fish culture as a trade. The fish culture industry has grown at a significant rate over the last few decades. With the help of technological inputs, entrepreneurship initiatives and financial investment, the fish production has gone up from 600-800 kg/ ha per year to 10-12 tonnes/ha/year in the several parts of the country with the national average production of 2450 kg/ha/year².

Ponds are shallow water bodies of standing water. Pond water is a primary unit of inland fish production^{11,14}. Small perennial water bodies such as ponds and tanks are maintaining biodiversity and provide help for recharging of river in monsoon season ^{16, 26}. Wild ponds are rich in plankton biodiversity compared to managed ponds ²². These water bodies are also providing huge food security and livelihoods of peoples globally ^{8, 9}. Pond aquaculture technology can be summarized as a complex value, important for nature conservation, water management and socio-economic aspects as well. Pond aquaculture is a good example for natural resources renewing technology and the circular economy. Pond fish farms besides producing fish provide ecosystem service. Ponds get their energy from the sun and develop own ecological phenomena with help of substratum nature (*e.g.*, productivity).

Uttar Pradesh has vast potential of aquatic bioresources and offers considerable scope of inland fisheries development and aquaculture^{15,18,19}. Inland fish production of India reached 12.5 m tones with help of scientific technology but this technology applies only in developed states while in developing states fish cultivation has done mostly with the traditional system. Indian and exotic major carps are backbone of culture fishery in Indian¹⁰. These species are also economically important

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	Basti District	Gonda District			
Blocks	Villages	Blocks	Villages		
Sadar	Ganeshpur, Mishraulia, Markatiya, Ranipur	Jhajhari	Banrasia, Dautalpur, Kasavpur phaha		
Saughat	Machuwa, Rasana, Tareta	Padrikripal	Vishunpurvariya, Bishunpura, Padri kripal		
Bankati	Datuakhore, Tharapar, Bhasha Pandey	Roopaedeeh	Chhitani, Bishaupur Belmariya, Chauhata		
Bahadurpur	Pokharni, Kondar, Kalwari, Masaha	Itiyathok	Sisai, Belmariya, Bardeeha		
Kudraha	Raj Pur Baira, Bamahi, Paun, Lalganj	Mujehana	Dhanapur, Bisambarpur, Bhavanipur		
Harraiya	Fardapur, Naryanpur, Chhapia Bujurg, Divalarpur	Karnailganj	Kepani, Saraya, Naryanpur		
Vikram Jot	Pachvas, Purahamraj, Bachipur	Katra bazar	Wanshbhariya, Pipri Gauriya, Sarawanpur		
Parasrampur	Sikandrpur, Loharauli, Jitpur	Haldharmau	Kamalgalpur, Bataura, Devitilmaha		
Dubaulia	Rampur, Singharana, Pakhari	Paraspur	Khaira, Pakhake, Madhaipur		
Captanganj	Padmapur, Kudhava, Bantiara	Tarabganj	Shushla, Shaghia, Mauhari		
Gaur	Aktakva, Pandav, Amodha, Parasdeen	Belsar	Sonauli Mohamadpur, Parsada, Birsinghpur		
Rudhauli	Sisawa, Rainagar, Hamumanganj, Baskhor	Wazirganj	Achalpur, Jagdishpur, Dalbharia		
Ramnagar	Bhanpur, Harihapur, Sonaha, Narkhotia	Nawabganj	Kishundas, Kalyanpur, Vishnu Harpur		
Saltaua	Gohnia, Muradpur, Bhagwanpur, Maghua	Mankapur	Vidyanagar, Manakapurkote, Mangal Bhawan		
		Babhanjot	Sabanjot, Ghajipur, Pipri Ismailpur, Baizpur		
		Chhapiya	Babhnikhas, Itwalbujurg, Charu, Jirabhari		

TABLE-1: Basti and Gonda districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh, their blocks and villages for the study

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S. No.	Informations	Districts			
		Basti	Gonda		
1.	Total geographical area of district (km ²)	2688	4003		
2.	Total number of blocks	14	16		
3.	Total number of ponds	3848	4471		
4.	Total area of fish farming (ha)	1040.42	3706.86		
5.	Total production of fish (t)	1800	3850		
6.	Average production of fish (kg/ha)	2800	3000		
7.	Type of fish culture commonly used in practice	Composite fish culture	Composite fish culture		
8.	Area under composite fish culture (ha)	1040.42	3706.86		
9. i) ii)		IMC- 3 species: Catla, Rohu, Mrigal/Nain EMC- 3 species: Silver carp, Grass carp, Common carp	IMC- 3 species: Catla, Rohu, Mrigal/Nain EMC- 3 species: Silver carp, Grass carp, Common carp		
10.	Length of rivers (km)	145.4	88.0		
11.	Average production of fish in rivers (kg/km)	2000	2500		
12.	Fish seed hatchery	Govt. – 1 Private – 1	Govt. – 1 Private – 2		
13.	Total number of fingerlings supplied by FFDA (lakh/ year)	135.00	158.00		

TABLE-2 Present status of fish farming in the districts – Basti and Gonda

Source: FFDAs Basti and Gonda districts.

in the riverine fishery^{7, 17,21}. The gap between scientific and traditional system has been detected in grass root in present study. The aim of this study was to assess the pond size, pond type, ownership of the pond and structure of the fish culture from Basti and Gonda districts, Uttar Pradesh.

Material and Methods

Selection of the districts

The study was conducted in two districts namely Basti and Gonda of eastern Uttar Pradesh. These districts were selected purposively. The Basti district is divided

TABLE-3: Distribution of the respondents according to pond size (area)

N=10	0
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		Respondents				
S.No.	Categories	Basti Gonda			nda	Total (%)
		Number	%	Number	%	
1	Below 1 ha	26	52	25	50	51
2	1-2 ha	19	38	16	32	35
3	Above 2 ha	05	10	09	18	14
	Total	50		50		100

into 14 blocks, whereas, the Gonda district has 16 blocks.

The criteria for selection of these districts were the close familiarity of investigator with respect to its area, people, officials, non-officials and local dialect. These districts were easily accessible to investigator too.

Selection of villages

For selection of villages list of all the villages of the respective blocks were prepared and three to four villages from each block were selected on the criteria of presence of large number of fish ponds in these villages. The selected villages for the study are given in the Table-1.

Results and Discussion

Table 2 indicates present status of the fish farming in the selected districts viz., Basti and Gonda, The total geographical areas are 2688 km² and 4003 km² in Basti and Gonda district, respectively. In both districts the composite fish culture technology is commonly followed for fish farming with six species combination i.e. Indian Major Carps (IMC) i.e. Catla catla (Catla), Labeo rohita (Rohu) and Cirrhinus mrigala (Mrigal/Nain) and Exotic Major Carps (EMC) i.e. Hypophthalmichthys molitrix (Silver carp), Ctenopharyngodon idella (Grass carp) and Cyprinus carpio (Common carp). There are 14 blocks in Basti district in which 3848 number of ponds are found. These ponds cover 1040.42 ha of water spread area. The total production of fish in district is 1800 ton/year and average production is 2800 kg/ha/ year. The total length of rivers flowing in Basti district is about 145.4 km and the average production of rivers is about 2000 kg/km. The number of fingerlings supplied by FFDA to the fish farmers is 135.00 lakh/year (Table 2).

There are 16 blocks in Gonda district. The number of ponds is 4471 with water spread area of 3706.86 ha. The total fish production in the district is 3850 ton/year. The average fish production is 3000 kg/ha/year. In Gonda district the length of rivers is about 88.00 km with an average fish production of 2500 kg/km. The number of fingerlings supplied by FFDA to the fish farmers is 158.00 lakh/year (Table 2).

The number of fish seed hatchery in Basti district is one each of government and private sector whereas, in Gonda district the number is one government and two private (Table 2).

(i) Pond size (area)

Table-3 clearly indicates that the area of pond of 51% respondents was below 1 ha, followed by 35% respondents was from 1-2 ha and 14% respondents was above 2 ha. The 52% respondents have less than 1 ha in the Basti district while 50% in Gonda district. Data also indicated that the fish farmers of both districts are marginal because they have smaller ponds (Table 3). The larger ponds (above 2 ha) were recorded maximum (18%) in the Gonda district.

(ii) Pond type

It is clear from the data included in the below Table- 4 that culture ponds of the majority of the respondents (72%) were managed type whereas, ponds of 28% of the respondents were unmanaged type.

Thus, it can be inferred that the majority of fish farmer adopted more than 50% of steps of composite fish culture technology.

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TABLE-4: Distribution of the respondents according to pond type

		Respondents				
S.No.	Categories	Basti Gonda			Total (%)	
		Number	%	Number	%	
1	Managed pond	34	68	38	76	72
2	Unmanaged pond	16	32	12	24	28
	Total	50		50		100

(iii) Pond ownership

76% respondents have leased ponds followed by 16% having their own ponds while only 8% respondents arranged ponds on rent basis from other owners (Table 5). The pond owner respondents were observed maximum number with 20% in the Gonda district (Table 5). But middle man (example rented respondents) also reported maximum with 10% in the Gonda district. Thus, it is concluded that the majority of fish farmers (76%) have leased ponds from the revenue department. Gonda district has more potential for fish forming in future.

Study showed that Gonda district was the most active district as far as in fish farming is concerned and Basti district was found poor in fishery activities. Though the most of the water bodies existing in different villages are presently under fish farming but there is still immense scope for further expansion of farming activities as well as yield enhancement from each water body. It is very clear that political crucial and poor enforcements are major donors to fishery failures^{11,12,14,18}. The fish farmers under different types of management were found to face with many technical (Example manuring, feeding, stocking density, seasonal diseases), economical and social problems^{1, 27}. The very poor technical knowledge is the major problem of pond fish production in the aquaculture practices^{4, 5, 9}. Aquaculture production models are highly dynamic with regional improvement ^{20, 23}.

It may be concluded that the water resources of

TABLE-5: Distribution of the respondents according to pond ownership

		Respondents				
S.No.	Categories	Basti Gonda			nda	Total (%)
		Number	%	Number	%	
1	Owned	06	12	10	20	16
2	Leased	41	82	35	70	76
3	Rented	03	06	05	10	08
	Total	50		50		100

N=100

the both districts are sufficient. Traditional culture techniques were used by formers. Water and feeding

management was not done properly (*e.g.*, scientific). The data also indicated that the Gonda district has more potential in fish production compared to Basti district.

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