

Webinar - “Opportunities & Challenges in Fisheries”

Date: 11th Oct 2020

Panelists: Dr. Kapil Chandrayan, Former Expert Member, Vidarbha Statutory Development Board, Sachin Belsare, Asst. Professor, Dept of Aquatic Environment Management, College of Fisheries Science, MAFSU, R.B. Vyada, Regional Dy. Commissioner, Fisheries, Govt. of Maharashtra, Webinar – Webinar - Nagpur Division, and Vijay Shikhare, Regional Dy. Commissioner, Fisheries, Govt. of Maharashtra, Amravati Division.

President of VED Council, Shivkumar Rao gave an introduction about the work of VED and scholarly information on the field of fisheries. In his keynote address, Dr. Kapil Chandrayan said that Vidarbha has abundant freshwater reservoirs and a traditional fishing community, the fisheries sector has not developed as much as it should, the major reasons for this being a lack of awareness, non-availability of infrastructure and organizational difficulties. However, Vidarbha still contributes 40 to 45% to the total production of the State. We should try to bring in new technology.

The agriculture sector has a major role to play in economic development and easing the unemployment situation in Vidarbha, and Fisheries can be one of the best options, which would especially provide new opportunities for the youth. We need to take advantage of different schemes of various departments of the government and also formulate a separate inland fisheries policy for Vidarbha.

Sachin Belsar said that there are difficulties in the production and rearing of quality fish seeds in this region and we have to depend on neighbouring states for this. The hatcheries, built three decades ago, are in a bad state. Vidarbha has a large number of water sources and work is needed on the lakes. 1.5 - 2 lakh people are working in the fisheries industry and they need proper training.

R.B. Vyada said work is currently being done through the Fishermen's Co-operative Society, but if private entrepreneurs come to the sector, they can usher in new technology and increased production, which can lead to development. Freshwater fishing is rare, but such fish are in high demand so there was a need to accelerate efforts in increasing this production. He also emphasized increasing the number of fish seeds and baby fish.

Vijay Shikhare spoke on the importance of fish in our diet through an online presentation. The total number of fish-seed centers are sufficient. These are the types of marine, saltwater, groundwater (freshwater) and ornamental fisheries.

According to 2017-18 figures, fish in fresh water is 29 per cent and groundwater (fresh) is 71 per cent. Not only fishing but also fish seed production, fish seed rearing pond fish farming, reservoir fish farming, fish farming in orchards, ornamental fishery, fish sales, fish processing, value added fish production are the major opportunities in fisheries. In fish farming, site selection, transportation facilities, availability of water, construction of ponds and preparation of fish culture are important factors. With proper management and planning, there can be good income.

The webinar was conceptualised by VED V-P & its Agri- and Allied Services Forum's Chairman, Pankaj Mahajan, who also compered it, gave expert remarks, and expressed the vote of thanks.