

# **KERALA- OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN MARINE FISHING**

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# INTRODUCTION

- Fisheries and Aquaculture – Source of food, nutrition, income and livelihood.
- India- Total production – 162.48 Lakh tonnes, Inland - 121.21 Lakh tonnes, Marine- 41.27 lakh tonnes(2021-22).
- Fisheries sector – Crucial role in the National Economy- Key contributor of foreign exchange earnings.
- India is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> place among fish exporting countries after China and Indonesia.
- Fisheries contribute 1.1% in the Indian economy and 6.72% in the Agriculture Sector.
- Challenges in Marine fishing are to be discussed in detail before planning and implementation.

# SEAFOOD EXPORT SCENARIO

- India exported the highest ever 17.35286 lakh metric tonnes of seafood in 2022-23.
- It worth US\$8.09 Billion and Rs. 63969.14 Crores.
- USA, China, EU, South East Asia, Japan and Middle East are the Major importers of Seafood.
- The major export item is frozen shrimp followed by frozen fish and cephalopods.
- Seafood export increased 11.08% in Rupee value terms, 4.31% in US\$ value terms and 26.73% in Quantity terms.
- Export of chilled items, considered as promising sector increased by 20.73% in US\$ terms and 12.63% in quantity terms.

# OUTLOOK FOR THE SECTOR

- Department of Commerce fixed a target of US\$ 8868 million for marine product export for 2023-24, require growth rate of 15%.
- India being the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest fish producer, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Aquaculture producer and 3<sup>rd</sup> largest seafood exporter set a goal of reaching US\$14 billion by 2025.
- Govt. of India support deep sea fishing, provide financial assistance up to 60% for converting fishing boats, provide low or zero cost loans through Blue revolution and PMMSY.

# MARKET CHARACTERISTICS

- Shrimps dominate the export market constitute 70% by value and 40% by Quantity.
- Maximum focus on shrimp with advancement made in shrimp aquaculture – gone up from 70000 tonnes in 2010 to 900000 tonnes in 2022.
- For low value fish like Ribbon fish, croakers etc. India almost exclusively depend on China.
- Us market for shrimp is around 8.5 lakh tonnes. India supplied 3.75 lakh(44%) in 2021-22, which dropped to 3.0 lakhs (25%)in 2022-23 due to supply of aqua cultured shrimp from Ecuador at cheaper prices.
- India substituted this drop by increasing export to China, EEC and other Countries.
- Domestic fish marketing is very active, fetch better price. Domestic market for shrimp needs to be tapped through effective marketing and cold chain infrastructure, which can absorb 30% of shrimp production.

# KERALA-CHALLENGES IN MARINE FISHING

- I. Sustainability of resources
- II. Fishing right to fishermen
- III. Development of organised fishing and e-auction facilities
- IV. Utilization of abandoned paddy field for shrimp farming
- V. Centralization of discharge water from seafood processing plants and pre processing centres through establishment of common effluent treatment plants
- VI. Tackling Issues of seafood exports of Kerala

# I. SUSTAINABILITY OF RESOURCES

- Uniform control of juvenile fishing and implementation of Resource conservation measures in maritime States.
- Establishment of Strict Quota system for capture of trash fishes for fish meal industry.
- Extension of trawl ban period, discourage and step by step elimination of unscientific trawl fishing with unregulated cod end mesh size causing resource depletion.
- Strict vigil on unregulated foreign fishing.

## II. FISHING RIGHT TO FISHERMEN

- Uniform Implementation of central level fishing right act through suitable constitutional amendments.
- Reduce cost of fishing through positive/ green box subsidies- Excise duty on fuel to be exempted.
- Control exploitation of traditional fishermen.



### **III. DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANISED FISHING AND E-AUCTION FACILITIES**

- Fish auction only through declared harbours and landing centres.
- Model e-auction facilities to be developed so as to avoid middlemen and aiming to get maximum price for fishermen on the day of sale.

## **IV. UTILIZATION OF ABANDONED PADDY FIELD FOR SHRIMP FARMING**

- Recommendations of CIBA study report, Feb, 2022 are to be implemented.
- Action may be initiated to promote shrimp farming in abandoned paddy fields -39 Ha in Thrissur District and 154 Ha in Ernakulam District.
- These promotional activities may be replicated in suitable areas in other Districts as well.

## **V. CENTRALIZATION OF DISCHARGE WATER THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON ETPs**

- 16 crore INKEL proposal is pending for want of Govt. Guarantee for the proposal- 80% financial assistance by SIDBI, through SPV named ACCEPT Environment Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Chaired by District Collector, Alappuzha.
- Kerala Seafood Exporters Welfare Society Limited proposed a CETP- Requested for Rs. 20 crore grant from Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala.
- 10 crore CETP proposal is pending with Industries Department , Alappuzha.

# VI. ISSUES OF SEAFOOD EXPORTS FROM KERALA

- Exorbitant increase in various fees on seafood exporters by MPEDA
- Access issues in international markets
- Brood stock imports to be tightly controlled
- Import and re export of goods and ingredients for value addition- greatly suffered with the Sanitary Import Permit (SIP) and quarantine procedures of the Fisheries Ministry
- Duplication of FSSAI role in quality control initiative
- Banks are not honouring LC and other instruments of foreign banks
- Free Trade Agreements are to be finalised by India with EEC, UK, South Korea, China and other major markets to bring duties on a level playing field with our competitors.

# VI. ISSUES OF SEAFOOD EXPORTS FROM KERALA

- Serious consideration should be given to address residue issues in markets of USA and EEC.
- Unfair Counter Vailing Duty (CVD) proceedings initiated by USA on shrimp imports from India should be contested very strongly.
- Freight charges to be reduced as a promotional measure
- List the 14 companies which have been delisted by EEC authorities.
- Indian Govt. should clear the barriers put forward by the Countries insisted on absence of White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) in the product, which they cannot insist as per WTO rules, as it exist on their own waters.
- Idling of the installed capacity of the processing plants and deficiency of material for processing and export.

# CONCLUSION

Hope this presentation could be an eye opener for the concerned authorities to look into the various problems being faced by the industry and also would initiate new and innovative steps to keep the industry moving in a healthy direction to tide over the stiff international competition in terms of cost efficiency, pricing, quantum of supplies, quality and perfect workmanship

*THANK YOU*

