

AN INSIGHT INTO THE PERFORMANCE OF FISHERMEN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN TRIPURA

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ABSTRACT

Fisheries in Tripura playing an active role for achieving livelihood in rural households as well as to generated income and employment opportunities in one hand and uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the poor fish farmers' on the other. In this development co-operative societies play an important role. In the year 1951, fishery activity based Co-operative Society was first launched in the state at Melagharh, Sonamura sub-division of the then west Tripura district. The prime objective of these societies is to invigorate the weaker section by extending and enlarging financial and technological support. At the end of March 2012, the total production of culture and capture of fish in Tripura has crossed 53350.24 M.T. over a culture and capture water areas are 23484.71 ha. and 7878.76 ha. respectively. Out of total fish production 316.24 M.T. has been produced by the 145 numbers of existing co-operative societies. The present study attempts to investigate the role of fishermen co-operative societies in enhancing the socio-economic condition of the rural underprivileged section and also evaluates the performance of those co-operative societies.

Keywords: *Fishermen Cooperative Societies, Performance evaluation, Socio-economic Condition.*

INTRODUCTION:

Tripura, as one of the remotest and landlocked states of India's North-east, has a geographical area of 10,486 km² surrounded by International boarder in three side, of which 2.77% represents as its water body (31363.47 ha.) where culture of fish usually takes place. More than 95% of the state population, (which is now 36,71,036), is fish eater and the state of Tripura is known for highest percentage fish eating population in the country and has an annual demand of 49,582.29 MT @ 13 kg/capita/year nutritional requirement of fish. As per that targeted nutritional requirement the present production (Culture and Capture) of fish which is 53,350.24 MT (2011-12) with an average productivity of 2,601 kg /ha./year is well above the requirement-demand. Out of that total production of fish from culture and capture 52036.32 MT. and the contribution of the Fishermen's Co-operative Societies to that is 316.242 MT as on 31st March, 2012. Apart from that Fishermen's co-operative societies have also produced 44.9 lakh fish seeds on that date. The first Fishery under Co-operative movement came into being in 1951 by Rudrasagar Udbastu Fishermen Co-operative Society. From than now in 2011-12 there is 145 nos. of co-operative societies are on record. The Fishermen's Co-operative Societies in Tripura are supported by the Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Tripura for their proper growth. In this present study attempts have been made to focus upon the status and performance of these Fishermen's Co-operative Societies in Tripura.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The present study is based on primary as well as secondary data. For carrying out the study the required data have been collected from the Fishery Department, Govt. of Tripura and also using a structured and unstructured questionnaire for collecting the necessary primary data, to cover up the information's gap wherever found. The study covers a period of 2 years from 2010-11 to 2011-12. However, for cross checking the results, field visit has been made in 4 nos. of fishermen's co-operatives situated in Dukli Block under the West Tripura District. The data so collected has been analyzed by using suitable statistical tools as and when necessary.

PRESENT STATUS OF FISHERMEN'S CO-OPERATIVES IN TRIPURA:

The term 'Co-operative' is an autonomous and independence association of persons to do social and economic activities for the nation. It is a credit generating model or instrument in providing an impetus to build a sustainable economic growth among the rural underprivileged sections of society. In a simple word 'cooperative' is the process of cooperation between the members of a group. It has a kind of instrumental effort, which helps to the rural poor peoples to enhance their economic and social activities for alleviating rural poverty.

The cooperative movement was first developed in Tripura as early as in 1949, under the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act (1925), although the real effort was came in the late 1904 to support rural economy in India. The first fishery activities under cooperative movement came into brings in 1951 to link rural fishermen community to the financial system of the state. The co-operative has been playing as a key role towards achievement of catalyzing growth in Tripura, a hilly and landlocked state in North East India. At the initial stage of implementation of Cooperative Act in the state, there were formed a small numbers of cooperatives. As on 31st March, 2012, there are total 1,720 numbers of cooperative societies and 6.51 lakh members are working under various activities in the state. The total number of cooperatives has increased from 766 in 1972 to 1,720 as on 31st March, 2012. Out of that, 399 numbers of cooperatives are involve in agricultural activities, 313 in Industries, 259 in Non-agricultural credit, 211 in consumers, 194 in weavers, 145 in Fisheries and remaining 199 cooperatives are engage in other groups of cooperative societies in the state. Table-1 shows that Fishermen Co-operative Societies has occupied the 6th rank after Agriculture (1st), Industries (2nd), Non Agricultural Credit (3rd), Consumers (4th) and Weavers (5th). The Table also shows that, there are 199 numbers of other cooperatives like, Non-agri-non credit, housing PRY marketing, milk supply, piggar, farming and processing.

Table-1: Different Types of Co-operative Societies in 2011-12

Types of Co-operative Societies	Nos. of Co-operatives	Rank
Agriculture	399	1
Industries	313	2
Non Agricultural Credit	259	3
Consumers	211	4
Weavers	194	5
Fishery	145	6
Others	199	7
Total	1,720	-

Source: Tripura State Co-operative Union, Govt. of Tripura

Table-2: Members of the Different Groups of Fishermen's Co-operatives in 2011-12

Particulars	Functioning (%)	Dormant (%)	Defunct (%)	Total (%)
No. of Primary MSS Ltd.	78 (54%)	34 (24%)	33 (22%)	145 (100%)
Nos. of Members	15,755 (80%)	1,697 (8.5%)	2,293 (11.5%)	19,745 (100%)
Nos. of Active Members	8,035 (51%)	nil	nil	8,035 (51%)

Source: Computed by the Authors

It has already stated, there are 145 nos. of fishermen cooperative activities in the state. Out of that, 78 nos. (54%) are in functioning primary MSS ltd. and remaining 67 nos. (46%) of cooperatives under the group of Dormant and Defunct fishermen cooperatives are 34 nos. and 33 nos. respectively. On the other hand, out of 19,745 nos. of fishermen cooperatives, 80% i.e. 15,755 nos. are in functioning, 8.5% (1,697) in Dormant and 11.5% (2,293) in Defunct as on March, 2012. Out of them only 51% (8,035) members are active and they were belonged to functioning group of cooperatives.

PERFORMANCE OF FISHERMEN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN TRIPURA:

Recently Govt. of India has implemented various schemes through the state Governments /UTs for developing a holistic inclusive growth among the rural poor and marginal group of peoples in the country, although cooperative movement has been identified as a key equipment towards achievement of rural employments and entrepreneurial activities in Tripura. The cooperative societies are classified in to two types- credit societies (LAMPS, PACS, Services, farmers, small farming) and Non-credit societies (marketing, weavers, other industries, fisheries, milk, consumers and transport etc). The two types of cooperative societies in the state have been playing an active role for generating rural employment opportunities as well as inclusive finance. In Tripura, Fishermen Cooperative Societies has also involved in the rural entrepreneurial activities. But the total production of fish and fish seeds cooperatives are totally depends upon the functioning groups of fishermen cooperatives. Table-3 presents the performance of primary MSS ltd. in the state. At the end of March 31st, 2012, there are total numbers of 19,745 members involve in MSS ltd, but in the year 2010-11 the total number of members in the existing cooperatives were 22,967 in Tripura. From this Table it may be seen that, the number of functioning fishermen cooperatives in the state decreased from 82 in the year 2010-11 to 78 in 2011-12. On the other hand, the total number of cooperative members and their existing water areas has decreased from 22,967 nos. in 2010-11 to 19,745 nos. in 2011-12 and 396.97 ha. in 2010-11 to 377.34 ha. in 2011-12 respectively.

Table- 3: Performance of Primary MSS Ltd. from 2010-11 to 2011-12

Year	No. of Primary MSS Ltd.			Total Members (in Nos.)	Water area (in Ha.)	Production of Fish (in MT)	Production of Fish seed (in lakh)
	Functioning	Dormant	Defunct				
2010-11	82	42	18	22,967	396.97	253.593	39.9
2011-12	78	34	33	19,745	377.34	316.242	44.9

Source: Compiled by the Authors from various Reports of Fisheries Department, Government of Tripura

In case of production of fish and fish seeds have been increased from 253.593 MT. in 2010-11 to 316.242 MT. in 2011-12 and 39.9 lakh in 2010-11 to 44.9 lakh in 2011-12 respectively. It also depicts from the Table that, at present the total number of non-functioning (Dormant and Defunct) group of cooperatives are increases because, the total number of functioning cooperatives are decreased in the state.

Table- 4: Overall District-wise Performance of the State Primary Fishermen Cooperative Societies during 2010-11 & 2011-12

District	No. of Primary MSS Ltd.						Total Nos. of Members		Water Area (in Ha.)		Production of Fish		Rank	Production of Fish seed	
	Functioning		Dormant		Defunct						(in MT)			(in lakh)	
	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12	
North Tripura	9	9	7	7	4	4	1459	1463	41.1	40.44	93.085	115.647	1	0.8	1.10
Shipahijala District	11	7	14	11	2	4	3378	3041	165.22	171.46	58.189	60.818	2	13.2	9.20
Gomati District	12	12	3	4	9	10	4974	5855	98.8	84.41	13.114	50.7238	3	2.0	4.20
Dhalai District	10	11	2	0	2	2	3646	3589	14.2	14.36	21.650	38.261	4	0.0	3.25
South Tripura	20	20	1	1	0	0	2173	2261	27.76	24.70	37.071	21.839	5	7.4	3.65
West Tripura	13	12	15	10	0	12	5878	2067	37.41	27.71	21.851	18.164	6	16.5	23.50
Khowai District	7	7	0	1	1	1	1459	1469	12.48	14.26	8.633	10.7896 5	7	0.0	0.00
Unakoti District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8	0.0	0.00
Total	82	78	42	34	18	33	2296 7	1974 5	396.97	377.34	253.59 3	316.242 45	-	39.9	44.9

Source: Compiled by the Authors from Annual Reports of Fisheries Department, Government of Tripura

Table-4 shows the overall district wise performance of the State Primary Fishermen Cooperative Societies in Tripura during 2010-11 and 2011-12. In March-2012, 145 nos. of fishermen cooperatives were from Northeast Tripura consisting of West Tripura, North Tripura, Shipahijala, Gomati, South Tripura, Dhalai, Khowai and Unakoti. The share of functioning fishermen cooperatives in Tripura has come down over the years. Among the 8 districts, the fishermen cooperatives in North Tripura have occupied the 1st rank, because they produced highest number of fishes during the year 2011-12. Although, there are total functioning and non-functioning group of fishermen cooperatives are 9 and 11 respectively. In 2011-12, total 1,463 nos. of fishermen's are produces 115.647 MT. fish and 1.10 lakh fish seeds in 40.44 ha. water areas and they have been living under this activity. As compare to 2010-11, the total production of fish and fish seeds in the state in 2011-12 has increased, but the total cooperative water area has decreased. The Table shows that Rank on fish production in cooperatives of Shipahijala District is second in the year 2011-12. During this year the total water area of the cooperatives in this district has increases positively, but the total production of fish cannot be increases at the same ratio. In view of above Table, functioning groups of fishermen cooperatives, members of the cooperatives and production of fish seed has decreased in this district. After the second position of the Shipahijala fishermen cooperative societies, Gomati District has occupied the 3rd rank on the basis of their total fish production. The total water area has decreased in the district, but production of fish and fish seeds has increased positively during the year 2011-12 as compare to the earlier year. On the basis of the production of fish, Dhalai district has occupied his position after the rank of Gomati district in Tripura. Although, the members of Dhalai district fishermen cooperatives has decreased during the year, but the production of fish and fish seeds, numbers of functioning fishermen cooperatives and their water areas has increased. In 2010-11, the total production of fish

of the existing cooperatives in the district of South Tripura and West Tripura was nearly 37 MT. and 21 MT. and water area was nearly 27 ha. and 37 ha. respectively. They had reduced their productivity and water areas as compare to the earlier year, 2010-11. It is clear from the Table-4, the functioning groups of cooperatives and their members are decreasing, but their production of fish seed is increasing in the West Tripura district in the state. After that, the fishermen cooperative societies in Khowai district has occupied 7th rank in terms of their fish production during the year and the numbers from cooperatives in fisheries, water areas and their fish production has increased as compare to the year 2010-11.

In view of above discussion, it is clearly said that, at present the production of the fishermen cooperatives in North Tripura, Gomati district and Dhalai district are good enough, because the members of the cooperatives has been actively participated to increase their productivity. The Government of Tripura has been taking several initiatives towards developing water resources to the rural fishermen throughout the state especially in the remote areas. Despite the total production of the fishermen cooperatives in the state has been increasing trend, but the production of other cooperatives in West, South and Khowai districts in the state has not increased. In case of the above mentioned districts, the active participation of cooperative members is insufficient and due to inappropriate training and educational programme, the functioning groups will have converted into Dormant and Defunct groups in future.

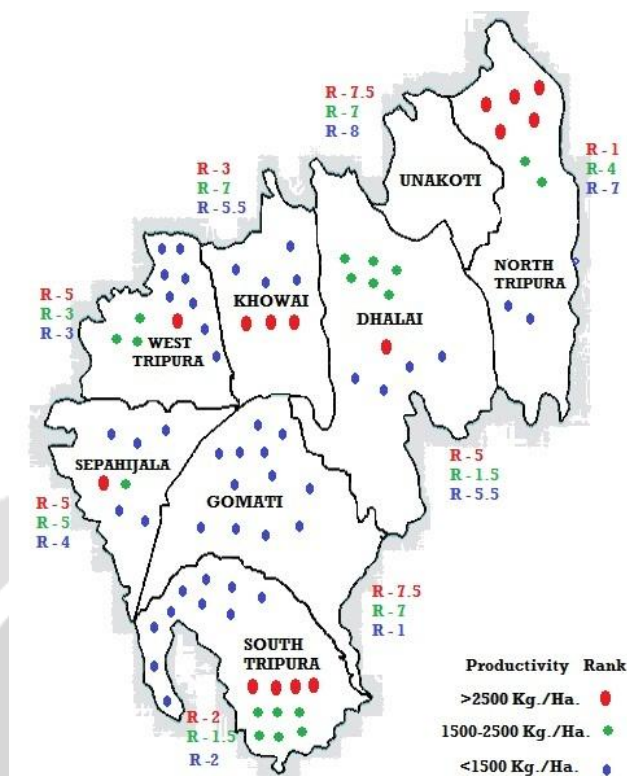
Tripura, a landlocked northeast state is known for movement in fisheries sector with a particular importance on socio-economic development of the underprivileged and low income groups of fishermen. According to the available data from Annual Report of Fisheries Department, Govt. of Tripura (Table-5), total numbers of functioning groups of fishermen cooperatives in Tripura are 78 at the end of March, 2012. Out of total functioning groups in the state, 15 nos. of functioning cooperatives are in high productivity group (>2500 kg./ha.), 18 nos. cooperatives are in medium level of productivity (1500-2500 kg./ha.) and 45 nos. are in low level productivity (<1500 kg./ha.) groups of cooperative.

Table- 5:District-wise Productivity and Rank of Functioning Fishermen Co-operatives in 2011-12

District	Functioning						Total Functioning Co-operatives	Rank
	>2500 kg./Ha.	Rank	1500-2500 kg./Ha.	Rank	<1500 kg./Ha.	Rank		
South Tripura	4	2	6	1.5	10	2	20	1
West Tripura	1	5	3	3	8	3	12	2.5
Gomati District	0	7.5	0	7	12	1	12	2.5
Dhalai District	1	5	6	1.5	4	2	11	4
North Tripura	5	1	2	4	2	7	9	5
Khowai District	3	3	0	7	4	5.5	7	6.5
Shipahijala District	1	5	1	5	5	4	7	6.5
Unakoti District	0	7.5	0	7	0	8	0	8
Total	15	-	18	-	45	-	78	-

Source: Compiled by authors

Figure-1:Map showing the performance of Fishermen Co-operative Societies in Tripura



In 2011-12, South Tripura stands first rank; West Tripura and Gomati district are stands second in the ranking based on the fish productivity. Although high and medium productivity cooperatives in West Tripura are very high in comparison with Gomati, with respect to other factors of production considered, Gomati is better placed than West Tripura. Similarly, the rank of Dhalai district and North Tripura are 4th and 5th respectively, in the year 2012. While comparing these two districts, it is found that the level of high productivity in North Tripura is very high in comparison with Dhalai district, but the rank of medium and low level of productivity of the district are high as compare to the rank of North Tripura. In Khowai district (3 nos.) belonged to high productivity group, (4 nos.) to low productivity group. As illustrated in the Table-5 and Figure-1 (1 nos.) of the total fishermen cooperatives belonged to the high productivity group, (1 nos.) to the medium productivity group and (5 nos.) to the 3 low productivity group in Shipahijala district. In the district of Unakoti, the member of functioning group of fishermen cooperatives belonging to high, medium and low productivity groups are nil. Taken as a whole the performance of the fishermen cooperatives in North Tripura, South Tripura and Khowai districts are good in terms of fish production during the year 2011-12. The above mentioned map of Tripura (Figure-1) gives an idea about the existed functioning fishermen cooperatives in the district of Gomati, South and West Tripura will be considered into a Dormant and Defunct groups of cooperatives in future.

Table-6: Rank of Top 20 Primary Fishermen’s Co-operative Societies in Tripura in 2011-12

Fish Production Rank	Name of District	Sub-Division	Name of MSS Ltd.	Rank on			
				Members	Water area	Productivity of fish	Per head contribution
1	North Tripura	Kailashahar	Khowrabill Multipur MSS Ltd.	15	3	3	1
2	Shipahijala District	Sonamura	Rudhrasagar Udbastu MSS Ltd.	1	1	20	17

3	Gomati District	Udaipur	Udaipur Samaj Kalyan MSS Ltd.	5	2	15	10
4	North Tripura	Kailashahar	Pechardahar Primary MSS Ltd.	8	8	4	6
5	Dhalai District	Kamalpur	Gangadebi MSS Ltd.	4	19	1	14
6	Shipahijala District	Sonamura	UFSS Ltd. Melaghar MSS Ltd.	14	9	6	3
7	North Tripura	Kailashahar	Dudhpur MSS Ltd.	16	10	7	2
8	North Tripura	Kailashahar	Jalai Prathamik MSS Ltd.	12	11	5	5
9	Gomati District	Udaipur	Tripura Sundari MSS Ltd.	9	6	16	11
10	Dhalai District	Kamalpur	Sadhak Maharani MSS Ltd.	3	13	9	16
11	Shipahijala District	Sonamura	Kajal MSS Ltd.	17	12	12	8
12	Khowai District	Khowai	Chebri MSS Ltd.	10	5	17	12
13	North Tripura	Kailashahar	Sonaimuri MSS Ltd.	18	15	10	7
14	West Tripura	Sadar	Kalikapur MSS Ltd.	20	16	11	4
15	Dhalai District	Longtarai Vally	Manughat MSS Ltd.	7	14	14	18
16	West Tripura	Sadar	Ranirbazar MSS Ltd.	6	18	8	19
17	Shipahijala District	Sonamura	Pachim Nalchar MSS Ltd.	19	7	18	9
18	South Tripura	Belonia	Maa Abhoya MSS Ltd.	13	20	2	13
19	Gomati District	Amarpur	Amarpur Khudra MSS Ltd.	2	4	19	20
20	South Tripura	Belonia	Balonia MSS Ltd.	11	17	13	15

Source: Author's calculation

The above table (Table-6) shows that, the rank of Top Twenty (20) Fishermen's co-operatives (in terms of Members, water areas, fish production, productivity of fish and per head members contribution) in Tripura based on the information's provided by the Report of Fisheries Department, Govt. of Tripura.

We want to test,

H_{01} : There is no significant association between rank on fish production and rank on number of members

H_{11} : There is a significant association between rank on fish production and rank on number of members

H_{02} : There is no significant association between rank on fish production and rank on water areas

H_{12} : There is a significant association between rank on fish production and rank on water areas

H_{03} : There is no significant association between rank on fish production and rank on productivity

H_{13} : There is a significant association between rank on fish production and rank on productivity

H_{04} : There is no significant association between rank on fish production and rank on per head members contribution

H_{14} : There is a significant association between rank on fish production and rank on per head members contribution

H_{05} : There is no significant association between rank on fish productivity and rank on per head members contribution

H_{15} : There is a significant association between rank on fish productivity and rank on per head members contribution

Spearman's Coefficient of Rank order Correlation

The test statistics is
$$t_{H_0} = R \sqrt{\frac{N-2}{1-R^2}} - t_{N-2} \quad R_s = 1 - \frac{6 \sum D^2}{N(N^2-1)}$$

Table-7: Results of Spearman's Coefficient of Rank order Correlation

Sl. No	Component I	Component II	$\sum D^2$	R_s	t_{H0}	$t_{\alpha/2=0.05/2, 20-2}$	Accept H_0	Reject H_0
1	Production	Member	1092	0.1789	0.77145	2.1009	Accept H_0	-
2	Production	Water area	664	0.5008	2.45488	2.1009	-	Reject H_0 , Accept H_1
3	Production	Productivity	962	0.2767	1.22164	2.1009	Accept H_0	-
4	Production	Per Head Members Contribution	720	0.4586	2.18949	2.1009	-	Reject H_0 , Accept H_1
5	Productivity	Per Head Members Contribution	762	0.4271	2.00401	2.1009	Accept H_0	-

Source: Author's own calculation

Analysis of Results:

At 95% confidence interval,

1. There is no significant associationship between rank on fish production and rank on number of members.
2. There is a significant associationship between rank on fish production and rank on water areas.
3. There is no significant associationship between rank on fish production and rank on productivity.
4. There is a significant associationship between rank on fish production and rank on per head members contribution.
5. There is no significant associationship between rank on fish productivity and rank on per head members contribution.

Table-8.1: Based on Production of Fish:

Production	↑ 1	↑ 7	↔ 8	↔ 13	↓ 14	↓ 20
Members	↓ 15	↓ 16	↔ 12	↓ 18	↓ 20	↔ 11
Water Area	↑ 3	↔ 10	↔ 11	↓ 15	↓ 16	↓ 17
Productivity	↑ 3	↑ 7	↑ 5	↔ 10	↔ 11	↔ 13
Per head members contribution	↑ 1	↑ 2	↑ 5	↑ 7	↑ 4	↓ 15
Rang of productivity	>2500	>2500	>2500	1500-2500	1500-2500	1500-2500

Source: Author's own calculation

Table-8.2: Based on Productivity of Fish:

Productivity	↑ 1	↑ 7	↔ 8	↔ 13	↓ 14	↓ 20
Members	↑ 4	↓ 16	↑ 6	↔ 11	↑ 7	↑ 1

Water Area	↓ 19	↔ 10	↓ 18	↓ 17	↓ 14	↑ 1
Production	↑ 5	↑ 7	↓ 16	↓ 20	↓ 15	↑ 2
Per head members contribution	↓ 14	↑ 2	↓ 19	↓ 15	↓ 18	↓ 17
Rang of productivity	>2500	>2500	1500-2500	1500-2500	<1500	<1500

Source: Author's own calculation

Table-8.3: Based on per head member's contribution:

Per head members contribution	↑ 1	↑ 7	↔ 8	↔ 13	↓ 14	↓ 20
Members	↓ 15	↓ 18	↓ 17	↔ 13	↑ 4	↑ 2
Water Area	↑ 3	↓ 15	↔ 12	↓ 20	↓ 19	↑ 4
Production	↑ 1	↔ 13	↔ 11	↓ 18	↑ 5	↓ 19
Productivity	↑ 3	↔ 10	↔ 12	↑ 2	↑ 1	↓ 19
Rang of productivity	>2500	1500-2500	1500-2500	>2500	>2500	<1500

Source: Author's own calculation

REQUIREMENTS:

On the basis of the above Tables (8.1, 8.2, and 8.3) following are the essential requirements for Fishermen cooperative societies in Tripura:

Productivity		
Above 2500	1500-2500	Below 1500
Increasing the production capacity of fish,	Increasing the production capacity,	Decreasing the nos. of members in the existing cooperatives ,
Slightly increasing the water bodies and active participation of the member's,	Decreasing the nos. of members in a group, Proper utilization of water areas	Increasing the production capacity of Fish,
Changes in the size of the cooperatives.	Proper training for the Members, Active participation of the cooperative member's.	Appropriate management of water resources.

FUNCTIONS OF TRIPURA FISHERIES DEPARTMENT:

All the villages of Tripura implementing schemes and programmes on multiple sectors like agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry, small industries, rural development etc. through Block Development Organization and different Departments was noticed in the state. The role of Fisheries Department was found of the prominent activities in socio-economic development of the members and non-members of the fishermen co-

operative societies in Tripura. Apart from the creation of new water area and renovation or reclamation of existing water area, the other major schemes implemented in the state by Department of fisheries through a trained fisheries technical officer (Fishery Assistant) supervised by the Fishery Officer of each Block were low cost input technology (Composite Fish Culture) for fishermen having minimum water area of 0.16 hec. In the entire schemes department assisted the farmers by supplying technical knowhow, seed and inputs to the fishermen and provide training. The Department has also provided the following welfare schemes - share capital, managerial subsidies and fishing inputs.

In every year 1,000 unnamed members of the Co-operative societies were listed under the scheme and the accidental benefits have been giving to the member's, who were faced any kind of accidents related to the fishery activities. Total 3,135 nos. of fishermen's were got the financial assistance of C.S.S. (75: 25) Rs. 800/- each under the scheme of Saving-Cum-Relief. But, in last year (2011-2012) the amount of Saving-Cum-Relief Scheme has increased to Rs. 1,200/- each. It has provided to 2,426 license holder fishermen's during the two-month close season (fish breeding period generally in the month of July to August) at Dumbur Reservoir. Another centrally sponsored scheme was put into operations for afford welfare reimbursement to disadvantaged and low income fishermen's, who were completely depended on fishing activity to generating their source of revenue. At a free of cost 765 deprived fishermen's has been profited under the form of dwelling houses, drinking water facilities, financial supports etc.

CHALLENGES OF FISHERMEN'S CO-OPERATIVES:

Despite the dormant and functioning fishermen co-operative societies in Tripura have been facing lots of challenges to operating their activities within the existed water bodies during the year 2011-12. This can be recognized for the following reasons:

- Inadequate co-operative organizational management,
- Insufficient knowledge of applying the modern scientific method of fish cultivation process,
- Fishermen's weaker economic condition and lack of access to financial services from the Banking Institutions,
- High costs of fishing inputs and transportation problems,
- Problems of storage and marketing of fish and fish seed,

REQUIREMENTS OF FISHERMEN'S CO-OPERATIVES:

Form the present study it has been found that, the following initiatives will be necessary for the sustainable development of fishermen's co-operative societies in Tripura:

- low level of education is virtually making the fishermen's handicapped to adopt scientific technologies and methods of fish farming activities and thus the achievement motivation, leadership, the core and genesis of entrepreneurial and business spirit is found to be remarkably low and in some cases almost absent or non-existent therefore, they have required intensive training for entrepreneurship development.
- to reduce group conflict between the members of the Fishermen's co-operative societies and also building an entrepreneurial path for the rural deprived fishermen's communities within the state.
- implementing the fishery cluster development activities and integrating the low productivity water areas of the rural fishermen's.
- motivational training, conferences and workshops will be needed for developing the co-operative entrepreneurial movements within the state.

CONCLUSIONS:

Fisheries activity is one of the highly profitable simple in technology can easily be adopted by the farmers with easy availability of the inputs. Although, it was found as one of the major rural farming activities in the North eastern state-Tripura, but the sustainable development of the fishermen's cooperative societies cannot be found in the state as a whole. The effectiveness of cooperative movements as a vital part for the underprivileged groups of fishermen cooperatives to generate rural employments and poverty alleviation as well as combating food security. It will be required to remove the organizational mismanagement, lack of entrepreneurial

leadership and conflicts between the group members for enhancing the productivity of fish of the fishermen's cooperatives in the state.

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