Opportunity for Fish farming (Pisciculture) at public ponds

Government of Kerala has made decisions to do fish farming at the public ponds which are under the ownership of Local Self Government Institutions as part of Subhiksha Keralam Programme. As per this decision, the Local Self Government Department had published a detailed guideline regarding the same on 15/07/2020 (No. R.C.4/149/2020/LSGD). As per this guideline, public ponds/pools under the LSGIs could be auctioned or be given on lease as per the decision of the Committee of local body for fish farming (pisciculture).

Fisheries Department had already done a detailed survey for identifying the public ponds/pools where fish farming is feasible. As per this survey, Fisheries Department has identified 7510 public ponds in all local bodies together. On the basis of circular given on 15/07/2020, LSGIs completed auction (or lease) and awarded 751 ponds to various groups. Realising that there are opportunities to do fish farming in additional 6759 ponds, Kudumbashree has decided to take leadership to identify beneficiaries for this programme on a campaign mode.

We have formulated a special campaign of one week duration for this. During the one week from 12-19 August, we would collect the details of the available ponds under every LSGIs from the Fisheries Department. Following that, we would give general orientation about this programme to the NHGs/enterprise groups/
farming groups who live nearby to these ponds. Awareness will be given to those who are interested in pisciculture. The aim will be to enable them to take up fish farming in the nearby ponds. We plan to give the details of the NHG members who interested in doing fish farming in the remaining 6759 ponds, to the respective LSGIs by 19 August. The initial activities for the same have been started two days ago. We hope that, within one week we would be able to facilitate for enabling livelihood opportunities for a maximum number of people through these ponds.

As per the above mentioned circular, Annual lease Permit could be given to the Kudumbashree NHGs at free of cost or with discounts for doing fish farming in public ponds/pools. So, after completion of beneficiary selection, we will start the phase 2 of the campaign. This will be to do liaison / coordination with local bodies so that they take decision regarding giving the PONDS on lease.

In parallel, it is also aimed at providing training for the beneficiaries in fish farming under the leadership of the Fisheries Department. The programme is designed in such a way that, through fish farming, income upto Rs 1 lakh could be earned within 6 months time. By doing fish farming as part of this programme, a minimum of 20,000 people would get a source of livelihood. We believe that this programme would also help in maintaining the public ponds/pools clean and also in conserving the same in good manner.