



# FISH FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS - DVARA E-REGISTRY'S PERSPECTIVE

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# Fish Farmer Producer Organisation (FFPO)

Fisheries sector occupies a very important place in the socio-economic development of the country. It has gained recognition as a potent source of income and employment since it fosters the expansion of several subsidiary sectors and provides access to affordable, wholesome food in addition to earning foreign cash.

The term "Fish Farmers Producer Organization" (FFPO) refers to any association or group of fishermen, fish farmers, or other fisheries stakeholders that is registered under any currently in effect law; or (ii) promoted under a scheme or programme supported by the Central or State Government with the primary goal of conducting sustainable fisheries value chain business.

## Government's Take

On September 10th, 2020, the Government of India introduced the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The plan's objective is to create the Blue Revolution through the five-year sustainable growth of the fisheries industry (2020-2025.). The establishment and promotion of "Fish Farmer Producer Organizations" is one of the key elements of PMMSY. The formation of Fish Farmer Producer Organizations, which would economically empower fishermen, fish farmers, and fish workers with the aim to increase their bargaining power and double their incomes, is intended to advance the fishing industry in India towards a sustainable and responsible development.

## Dvara E-Registry's Perspective

Fish Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs) could be one of the creative ways to expand and offer end-to-end assistance and services for small-scale fishers and fish farmers in terms of technical inputs (supply of feed and seed, training), processing, marketing, and providing access to financial advice and services.

Financial institutions have the potential to change the game by supporting FFPOs with a significant primary producer membership base by offering loan and non-credit interventions.

How capacity building programmes can help small-scale fish farmers become more aware of their ability to access capital and seize market possibilities in the fish value chain.

## **Scope Of Developing Fish Farmer Producer Organisations**

- By obtaining economies of scale, the fish farmers will become more economically powerful, which will improve their ability to bargain.
- Boost productivity by using resources in an effective, economical, and sustainable way.
- Realize higher profits for fish farmers and fishermen through more lucrative market connections and better liquidity for their catch.
- Increase the ability of fishermen and fish growers to become entrepreneurial so that the FFPOs can support themselves financially.
- Create value chains for fisheries that are aimed toward generating cash.
- Increase in market access and power through grossing individual marketing power and integration with supply chains as value chain partners, such as to maximise the monetisation of their output and capture enhanced value on the production.
- Cutting down intermediaries

## **Need for Credit**

Credit is required not only for the purchase of fishing vessels and equipment, fish ponds, facilities and services for handling, processing, and marketing fish, but also—and perhaps even more—for the successful daily capture, culture, handling, processing, and distribution of fish. Strong credit support is also required to improve the socioeconomic status of women in fishing areas. Consequently, a viable credit and loan system is required, one that takes the fishermen's current socioeconomic circumstances into account. For this system to promote growth and development in this industry, it must be connected to technology, production systems, and output prices.

By becoming members in FFPOs, fish farmers and fishermen will be able to access loan for purposes like fish culture, boat loan, construction/deepening/widening/desilting of ponds, purchase of fingerlings, equipment's, manures, feeds and labour inputs

## **Bouquet Of Services That FFPOs Could Offer To Fish Farmers And Fishermen**

- The affordable supply of high-quality production inputs, including seeds, fingerlings, brood stock, fish feed, fishing nets, and similar items
- Engage in fish culture-related pond, pen, cage, RAS, raceway, and Bio-floc activities for both inland and maritime regions
- Undertake aggregation of smaller lots of farmer-members produce
- The spread of technology, quality assurance, and other fisheries-related advancements
- Use of fermented cow manure as a feed substrate for fish polyculture in stagnant water ponds thus also reducing the cultivation cost
- Capacity building on new aquaculture technologies like biofloc among others in consultation with National bodies like National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad
- Technological stack to farmers for market prices, block level weather updates, information on new varieties of seeds and fingerlings

## Post-Harvest Management and Infrastructure

- Make equipment and apparatus available for production and post-production, such as ice flakes, ice boxes, and transportation/logistic
- FFPOs may also suggest establishing high-value addition/processing units for improved price realisation and traceability-related activities through association with organisations like Fish Welfare Initiative
- Undertake higher income generating activities like cold chain development, seed/broodstock production, ornamental fisheries, seaweed cultivation, cold water fisheries, fish kiosks, aquarium manufacturing etc
- Provide user-pay-based, reasonably cheaper services for facilities including cleaning, assaying, sorting, grading, packing, and fish farm-level processes that add value.

