

Tripura News Articles
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Bangladesh: Exports 2,450 tonnes of ‘hilsha’ fish to Tripura

<https://www.northeasttoday.in/2022/09/07/bangladesh-exports-2450-tonnes-of-hilsha-fish-to-tripura/>

"As a token of love and affection for the people of Tripura and Durga Puja's gift, Bangladesh is exporting season's first consignment of 2,450 tonnes of 'Hilsha' fish, popularly known as 'Elish' in Bengali is expected to hit the markets of Tripura's capital city Agartala in a day or two, said an official on Tuesday.

The Bangladesh government led by its Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina lifted the ban on exporting 'Hilsha' fishes to Tripura last year before Durga Puja festival.

A leading fish importer of Tripura, Bimal Roy said that the "Silver Crop" is likely to reach Agartala by today or tomorrow and the first consignment would be around 100 tonnes.

Fish importers said "For the current season and ahead of Durga Puja festival, Bangladesh government gave permission for exporting 'Hilsha' fishes which is indeed a great love for the Tripura people. The consignment will reach by Wednesday at Agartala."

"A total of 4,600 tonnes of 'Hilsha' was exported to India last year after getting permission from the Bangladesh government after a span of 10 years. However, 1,200 tonnes could have been imported due to a fortnight-long window", importers added. There has been a request from the end of fish importers to the Bangladesh government to keep the export window open for 45 days at least.

It is to be mentioned here that the neighbouring country Bangladesh exports 'Hilsha' weighing between 800 grams to 1,500 grams while the prices start from Rs 1000 to Rs 1,800 per kilogram as the festive season is barely 24 days away."

Tripura: What's stalling ambitious plan to import fish from Bangladesh?

<https://www.eastmojo.com/tripura/2022/07/20/whats-stalling-tripuras-ambitious-plan-to-import-fish-from-bangladesh/>

"Tripura government has sought necessary clearances from the Central government to import fish from Bangladesh through the newly declared Indo-Bangla waterway protocol route connecting Sepahijala's Sonamura with Bangladesh's Daudkandi. On this 90-kilometer

waterway stretch, Tripura's Gomati meets its tributaries with Meghna in Bangladesh. Speaking on the issue, a senior official of Tripura Transport Department said, "Initially, we are trying to make this route operational with fish imports." There are, however, some trade barriers to get there. First, the Tripura government needs permission from the central government and necessary clearances of customs and other agencies involved in international trade are a prerequisite to kickstart the bilateral trade.

"In May, we sent a letter to the Central government and are awaiting their response," the official said. However, the official explained, that only permission on paper is not enough considering the present state of affairs. "So far, I have been informed by the implementing agencies that sedimented alluvial soil took the shape of an islet in Bibir Bazar area, a 'no man's land' that falls under the territory of Bangladesh."

The Bangladesh authorities were informed about the issue and the Indian government is eager to pay the cost of its removal. "The matter is already taken up with the Central government but as several departments are working in cooperation, some communication lapses are delaying the process," said the official. The ministry of shipping has been informed about the development. Apart from that, for the development of the Indian stretch that continues till Udaipur from Sonamura, Tourism and Water Resource development departments have been assigned as the implementing agency.

"Union Minister of Shipping, Ports and Waterways minister Sarbananda Sonowal during his Tripura visit in February this year sanctioned Rs 24 crore for dredging and development work of the waterway on the Indian side. Rs 2.90 crore has been released already. The funds are distributed among both the departments for their respective works." The water resource department got Rs 1 crore for the dredging of the river stretch that expands from Nischintapur to Udaipur. The tourism department has been given Rs 1.90 crore for constructing floating jetties. Tourism has already floated the tender for the project.

On the dredging, he said, "Water Resource department has its own dredging machine but after conducting a survey resolved to award the work to an experienced private firm." The problem lies with the quantity of soil the dredging work will generate. In both the sides of the river there are crop lands and no one will allow the soil to be heaped on private land. It has to be dumped somewhere in an abandoned area. "This aspect is being taken care of by the department," the official added.

He also admitted that even after dredging, no big ship with a high crest can travel internationally.

“Over 23 over bridges are there that are low in height from the water surface. Only barges could be allowed for export-import. However, for domestic purposes, funds have been sought for introducing boat houses in Sonamura to Udaipur stretch,” he added.”

Tripura: Increase in fish consumption indicates rise in people’s income

<https://theprint.in/india/increase-in-fish-consumption-indicates-rise-in-peoples-income-tripura-cm/895536/>

"Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Wednesday said increase in fish and consumption in the state was an indication that people’s income has risen. Fish consumption in Tripura has increased to 25.53 per cent in 2020-21 financial year from 24.96 per cent in 2017-18. Currently, the state consumes 92,500 MT fish annually. The per capita fish consumption stands at 25 kg against the national average of 18 kg.

Around 23 per cent of total consumption is sourced from outside the state. “Fish consumption is growing in the state which means income of the people has increased and poverty is on the decline,” he said at programme organised by the fisheries department here. Fisheries minister Mevar Kumar Jamatia was present at the event. Deb said his government has been working for the welfare of fish farmers.

“In Tripura, a survey was carried out to find out the number of fish farmers and dry fish traders. At present, the state has as many as 7,482 fish farmers and dry fish traders. The government has plans to provide loan to 3,000 of them in the next three years,” he said.

The CM also lashed out at the previous regime for “doing nothing” to develop pisciculture in the state and people engaged with the sector. In a dig at the erstwhile CPI(M) regime, he asserting that “jindabad and murdabad” slogans will not increase fish production in the state, only scientific practices would boost the sector.

Assam, Manipur and Tripura: Ramsar designated wetlands of Northeast India are under imminent threat

https://assamtribune.com/north-east/ramsar-designated-wetlands-of-northeast-india-are-under-imminent-threat-1352326?infinite_scroll=1

"Guwahati, Feb 2: Wetlands contribute to the environment in a number of ways including regulating water quantity, groundwater recharge, protecting the ecosystem against floods and

drought, acts as erosion control and sediment transport. It also provides as an important habitat for migratory birds and other species. However, threats like draining of wetland, construction works, climate change and dumping zones are contributing to the degradation of these natural habitats. India is blessed with a total of 899 natural and man-made wetlands. Amongst these 49 sites have been recognized to be of "international importance" under the Ramsar Convention. In Northeast India, the three Ramsar sites are- Deepor Beel in Assam, Loktak Lake in Manipur and Rudrasagar in Tripura. Deepor Beel The fresh water lake of Deepor Beel is located on the outskirts of Guwahati city. The wetland derives its name from the 'lake of elephants' which used to be a channel of the Brahmaputra River. Considered as one of the largest beels in the Brahmaputra valley, the lake was declared a Ramsar site in August 2002.

Apart from providing livelihood opportunities to the locals in the form of fishing and farming, the lake is a natural habitat for many varieties of birds, 219 species of birds including more than 70 migratory species are reported in the beel area. Considering the richness of the bird varieties found in the beel, BirdLife International has declared Deepor Beel as an Important Bird Area (IBA) with high priority for conservation. Natural and anthropogenic causes are some of the major threats that the lake is facing. This includes the proliferation of human settlements, expansion of roads and industries, threat from construction of broad-gauge railway line on the periphery of the beel that often possess a threat to elephant corridor thereby affecting the movement of the pachyderms. Another major threat is posed by the dumping ground in the nearby area close to the water body. The situation worsens during the monsoon as garbage gets carried away into the water body, affecting residents and migratory birds and fish. Waste water from different parts of the city and the adjoining areas is also contributing to liquid waste, which is affecting the health of the water body.

Loktak Lake Located at Moirang in Manipur, the Loktak Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India and is famous for the phumdis (heterogeneous mass of vegetation) floating over it. Situated on this phumdi, Keibul Lamjao National Park is the only floating national park in the world. It is a Ramsar-designated wetland of international importance and home to the last wild population of the highly endangered brow-antlered, or Sangai deer which is the State animal along with a plethora of migratory birds and plant-life. Development activities such as hydropower generation, irrigation and drinking water supply for economic expansion are the major stress factors and cause rapid conversion to other uses and their function in a wider economic sense. Locals and environmentalists have often voiced their concern over the hydropower project which is gradually destroying the lake's ecosystem, greatly harming local livelihoods and threatening the habitat of animal species. Degradation of catchment areas has

occurred due to the construction of Ithai barrage. Deforestation and shifting cultivation in the catchment areas have accelerated the process of soil erosion resulting in the lake's shrinkage due to siltation. The annual silt flow into the lake is estimated to be 336,350 tonnes. The nutrients carried through the catchment areas are discharged into the lake affecting its water quality, thus encouraging the growth of water hyacinth and phumdis.

All these activities have a direct bearing on ecological stability of the lake. The thickness of the phumdis has also decreased in the National Park, thereby threatening the survival of the Sangai deer. Rudrasagar Lake Also known as Twijilikma, the lake is located in Melaghar, in Sipaijala district of Tripura, about 52 kms south of Agartala. It was declared as a Ramsar site in 2007. The lake is situated near the Majestic Neermahal which is in the north-east bank of the lake. The Rudrasagar Lake is a natural sedimentation reservoir, which receives flow from three perennial streams Noacherra, Durlavnaraya cherra and Kemtali cherra. After settling the sediment from the received flow, clear water discharges into the river Gumati through a connectivity channel Kachigang. Rudrasagar is a potential Important bird area and attracts a large number of waterfowl in winter. Among the rarer species recorded are the endangered Baer's pochard and near-threatened ferruginous duck. The main threats are increasing silt loads due to urbanisation, deforestation, expansion of agricultural land and intensive farming, and land conversion for population pressure. Apart from these the other major threats include dumping of garbage, deposition of solid waste and storage of construction materials along the shoreline. Destroying or degrading wetlands which are considered to be a rich repository of bio-diversity can lead to serious consequences, such as increased flooding, extinction of species, and decline in water quality.

These consequences can be avoided by maintaining the valuable wetlands we still have and restoring lost or impaired wetlands where possible.

Tripura: Second-biggest per capita fish consumer, seeks to cut imports

<https://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/tripura/second-biggest-per-capita-fish-consumer-tripura-to-cut-imports-7672796/>

"Tripura consumes the largest amount of fish per capita annually than any other part of India after the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Almost one-fourth of that demand is met from other states or neighbouring Bangladesh. Conveying these numbers, Tripura Fisheries Minister Mevar Kumar Jamatia Monday said the state is trying to boost its fish production through initiatives such as biofloc (a method of fish rearing) and pisciculture. The state with a population of 37 lakh consumes 25 kg of fish per person on an average every year. The national average is

18 kg, Jamatia said. Of Tripura's demand of 92,500 metric tonnes (MT) of fish a year, 23% is met from outside. In 2002-03, Tripura set a 10-year target for food self-sufficiency. However, by 2012-13, the state produced barely 58,655 MT of fish annually. The Left Front government at the time then set a new target for self-sufficiency in food production by 2020. However, despite repeated attempts, the state has failed to cut down on its import dependency for food. Developments in Bangladesh often affect the supply of fish in Tripura. In October this year, for example, Tripura received a 2,000 kg consignment of the much-in-demand ilish from Bangladesh in such quantity and quality for the first time in 10 years, following a ban on exports by the country.

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb last year promised that his government would double the income of farmers and poultry farmers through intensive cultivation and introduction of high-yielding varieties. On Monday, Jamatia announced a new lease policy for the estimated 1,502 government-owned water bodies in the state, promising "sustainable use" and scientific fish rearing. The minister said the water bodies are spread over an area of 645.54 hectares. "Most of them are not utilised for pisciculture. However, these water bodies can be used to increase fish production, which will generate employment too."

Tripura: Government comes up with policy to improve fish production

<https://english.lokmat.com/national/tripura-govt-comes-up-with-policy-to-improve-fish-production/>

"In a unique move, the Tripura government has drawn up a detailed policy to improve the state's overall fish production by utilizing the government-owned water bodies. Tripura Fishery Minister Mevar Kumar Jamatia said the decision has been taken soon after the state bagged an award of best-performing state in the fisheries sector among the eleven hilly states. ""The state was awarded a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh for its commendable job in the fishery sector,"" the minister said. The award was presented by the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad on the occasion of World Fisheries Day observed on November 21. Sharing details of the new policy the minister said, lease Policy for government-owned water bodies of Tripura-2021 has been formulated for sustainable use of all the water bodies available in the government's land for scientific pisciculture. ""At present, there are 1,502 water bodies spread in a total area of 645.54 hectares. The whole area belongs to the government of Tripura. The water

bodies are under the control of different departments like education, rural development, forest and tourism and thus mostly remain underutilized as far as fish production is concerned," he said. So through this policy, the fisheries department tried to bring some uniformity in the management of water bodies as well as in its proper use for fish production, the minister added.

According to the minister, an individual in Tripura consumes 25 kgs of fish per year which is the second-highest in the country after Andaman and Nicobar Islands. On the shortfall of production and consumption patterns, Jamatia said, in 2019 and 2020, a 23 per cent shortfall of fish has been recorded. The shortfall was filled up by importing fish from neighbouring Bangladesh and other states of the country, he added. "To become self-reliant in this front too, we have introduced modern fish culture practices like Bio-floc and Pisciculture. Hopefully, in the next two years, we shall be able to produce fish as per our requirement," he said. Explaining further, the minister said leasing of these water resources will accrue better utilization of water resources, enhancement in fish production, bridging the gap of demand against the production, revenue generation, employment generation, more contribution to GSDP and food and nutritional security of the people.

Tripura: Truckers strike in Bangladesh hits fish market

<http://www.uniindia.com/~truckers-strike-in-bangladesh-hits-fish-market-in-tripura/States/news/2539958.html>

"The fish markets in Agartala were badly affected for three days after suspension of border trade by Bramhanbaria Truck Owners and Lorry Workers Union of Bangladesh protesting alleged extortion bids by a section of ruling party cadres in Akhaura and Brahmanbaria regions. The wholesale fish markets and major retail outlets have been running almost dry as supply of fresh fish varieties of Bangladesh including Hilsa were absent. The scarcity of supply shot up the price exorbitantly and except for a few local fishes and imported fish varieties from Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal nothing was found in the markets. Early in the month, Bangladesh had reportedly exported silver brand export standard 2000 kg Hilsa fish to Tripura after a long gap of 10 years, but it was not available in the local markets. As a result, inferior quality small size Hilsa has been sold at the rate of Rs 1200-2000 per kilogram in the state during Sharad festival and Laxmipuja.

The local vendors alleged that Bangladesh had sent a small consignment of best quality Hilsa and it was not brought to the markets. The fishes were taken away by the otherwise influential section from the Check-post at minimum price. The importers had reportedly assured that the supply would be continued at least for one month but it did not happen. Meantime, truck owners and transport workers union of Bangladesh raised allegations of extortion against the cadres of the ruling party in that country and they had served a seven days notice seeking action against the accused Brahmanbaria district administration, alleged workers union leader Sakhawat Hussein Khokan. Hundreds of loaded trucks on both sides of the border have been stranded for three days in the border and the protesters warned to continue the blockade for an indefinite period until the administration takes action against the accused persons and ensures hassle-free trade in the border.

Bangladesh: Lifts ban after 10 years, 2000 kg of 'Hilsha' fish enters Tripura

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/tripura-news/bangladesh-lifts-ban-after-10-years-2000-kg-of-hilsha-fish-enters-tripura-557176>

"The Durga puja has brought relief for the people of Tripura, as the government of Bangladesh has lifted the ban on exporting 'Hilsa' to the state. On Thursday Tripura has exported a total of 2,000 kilos of 'Hilsha' fish through Agartala Integrated Check Post (ICP). Sources said that almost after 10 years of the gap the government of Bangladesh has lifted the ban. Understanding the market demand, there are plans to import hilsa fish in large quantities from October 04 next. There is no denying that the government of Bangladesh gifted Tripura during the Durga Puja festival by lifting the ban on 'Hilsha' exports.

The Customs Superintendent of Agartala Integrated Check Post, Joydeep Mukherjee said, ""2000 kg of 'Hilsha' fish has arrived from Bangladesh on Thursday. The traders have imported the fish experimentally. He informed that the Bangladesh government has sent a health certificate of the fish which was approved in Calcutta and humans can consume it. Earlier the hilsa fish used to export in Tripura from Kolkata due to the ban imposed by the Bangladesh government. As a gesture of goodwill, the Bangladesh government has approved the export of 1,450 tonnes of hilsa fish to India on the occasion of Durga Puja. Bangladeshi hilsa is considered as a delicacy in India's West Bengal, and people are willing to pay high prices for it. 'Padmar ilish' (hilsa from river Padma in Bangladesh) is believed to be of superior quality in taste. The Ministry of Commerce has given permission to nine local companies to export the hilsa. ""Nearly 200 exporters sought permission to export the fish. The government has given special

permission to only nine exporters to export 1,450 tonnes of hilsa next week," said Syed Anwar Maqsood, Secretary of Fish Importers' Association, on Sunday evening.

Tripura: Making sense of shidol: In Tripura, sales of a fermented dry fish rise amid Covid-19

<https://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/tripura/shidol-in-tripura-sales-of-a-fermented-fish-dish-rise-amid-covid-19-6603798/>

"As people seek out natural immunity boosters amid the Covid-19 pandemic, in Tripura, a local preparation has seen its sales shoot up considerably – the shidol, or fermented dry fish. Shidol or berma has been eaten in Tripura for over a thousand years. While dry fishes are extensively consumed in different parts of India and in countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand, what makes shidol special is its immunity-boosting benefits. Shidol, Hidol, Tungtap or Berma? Fermentation as a technique is common in Northeast India's culinary milieu. With abundance of fishes in these states, especially in hilly rivers and streams, preservation came naturally to the local populace, to ensure availability in dry seasons. Shidol is known as hidol in Assam, Tungtap in Meghalaya, and Berma in Tripura's indigenous Kokborok dialect, indicating an adaptation of the item in respective cultures. In Tripura, shidol bears imprint of the East Pakistan immigrant Bengalee community too.

The dish is known for its pungent smell, which makes it so hard to carry, even inside layers and layers of wraps around containers. How is shidol made? Preparing shidol involves smearing an earthen pot with oil, sun-drying it, tempering its insides with a paste made from crushed dry fish, then pouring brine and mustard oil, and finally hard-stuffing the processed fish to the pot's optimum capacity. The pressing was traditionally done by feet, though manufacturers now use hands or wooden appendages. The pot then goes inside a deep hole dug into the soil, covered, and left there for 4-6 months depending on the quality and quantity of fish. The microbial fermentation is catalysed by the cold, darkness and geothermal energy underground. When the pot is 'harvested', shidol is ready for the market. Why is everyone buying copious quantities of shidol? Over 30-40 varieties of dry and fermented fishes are available over the counter or on demand at Maharaganj Bazaar in Agartala, the largest wholesale market of Tripura. But shidol certainly has its edge. Sellers, like 65-year old Subodh Das, say sale of dry fish, especially the fermented variety, has shot up in the past few months. "People are buying shutki (dry fish) more these days. Shidol has a very large share of this sale. I am selling at least 4-5 kg shidol on a daily basis. It has good immunity boosting factors.

Even I eat it frequently, Das told indianexpress.com. Das imports large shidol-stuffed matkas or earthen pots from Bangladesh and from West Bengal. These matkas usually have between 38-42 Kg shidol and cost Rs 15,000-17,000. The sale value, he says, is much higher. Dulal Das, a 35-year-old dry fish trader at MG Bazaar, said he is selling shidol worth Rs 10,000 a day, while other varieties of dry fish like Hilsa or Elish shutki, prawn or chingri shutki, tyengra shutki etc. also sell profusely. Tripura mostly has three varieties of shidol – those made from puti fish (Puntius Sophe), baspati fish and kata shidol (assorted local varieties). These sell at Rs 600 per kg, Rs 350 per kg and Rs 300 per kg respectively, depending on the quality and origin. While the more exotic and costly varieties come from Bangladesh, the cheaper ones are sourced from West Bengal via Jagiroad of Assam, which is the largest dry fish market of NE India.

Immunity: Traditional belief or medical benefit? Does shidol actually have any health benefit to it? Experts say it does. Dr. Kuntal Manna, Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry & CADD at Tripura University, told this publication that a doctoral study to analyse the nutrient content of raw puti fish, and its processed version, or shidol, revealed polyunsaturated fatty acids, monounsaturated fatty acids, amino acids in abundance, which was increased through frying. The team studied nutritional components in both raw fish and dry fish, with samples collected from local markets, identified by zoologists and tested at the state food testing laboratory. Samples were also sent to a food laboratory at New Jersey, USA. “The widespread traditional belief is that fermented fish is beneficial for common cold and flu or malaria. We haven't found any direct relation to that, but healthy components have been found in our study – ingredients like proteins and amino acids, drastically increased due to fermentation in the dry fish, Dr. Manna said. The university teacher also said the microbes and enzymes released during fermentation were found to contribute to good gut bacterial growth, leading to better digestive health.

Also, there is an abundance of amino acids, minerals and fatty acids in shidol. Dr Dayeeta Choudhury, a dietician and assistant professor at ICFAI University in Agartala, said processed dry fish are preserved using brine, leaving them with high sodium content. But the product is very rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids, protein and minerals, which directly or indirectly boost immunity. She also said certain varieties of dry fishes were found to be richer in protein content than fresh eggs. “Omega 3 fatty acids are available in high concentration in traditionally prepared dry fishes. It helps people with cardiac problems and diabetes. But since dry fishes have high sodium content, people with heart ailments should undergo a lipid profile test and make sure their sodium, potassium levels are within the safe bracket. This might be used for boosting immunity to better combat diseases like this Covid-19, she said. How is shidol taken? Well,

that's up to your taste. The varieties of shidol-based dishes in NE's diverse cuisine are wide. It's taken dry roasted in fire and mashed with copious amounts of onions, garlic and hot chillies; fried in oil, infused with fried onions, abundance of chillies, a dash of tomato and coriander leaves; mashed in a paste or boiled with bamboo shoots, lots of hot chillies, spices and condiments; even stewed with different vegetables as a one-pot dish. Pratima Debroy, a former athlete and sports department employee with the state government, said her kitchen is never bereft of the pungent aroma of shidol.

“I use it very frequently. In case of common cold or flu, I find it very helpful. Now that the corona pandemic is going on, my family is having mashed shidol every other day. It's the gharelu nuskha (home remedy) our culture follows, she said. Dipa Choudhury, a retired health department employee, said she takes shidol and other dry fish almost every other day, if not regularly. “We find shidol very helpful to ward off common ailments. Plus, it is tasty. Taste and health rarely comes together, she said. Health hazards Though the benefits far outweigh hazards as explained by experts, rise in demand and consequent efforts to speed up fermentation has led to use of chemical components in the process. Dr. Manna said their research found microbial contamination, antibiotics, heavy metals like lead, arsenic, and pesticides like chloride and formaldehyde, albeit in traces, in many of the samples studied. “The traditional method is always the best. But race for producing more and more shidol and speeding up the fermentation process has led to chemicals creeping into the industry. This should be regulated, he said.

Tripura: Bioflok fish culture system important in Tripura: Fishery Expert

<http://www.uniindia.com/bioflok-fish-culture-system-important-in-tripura-fishery-expert/east/news/2071244.html>

"The system called 'Bioflok' is very relevant in Tripura because there is huge demand for local fish and the farmers of the state are small land holder, said Debtanu Bardan. Debtanu Bardan is a fishery expert in the state and doing different research activities in the fishery sector. He said, “ Tripura is a small state and the farmers of the state are also called marginal farmer as the farmers of the state are maximum small, the system Bioflok is very relevant in the state. According to expert, Biofloc is a heterogeneous aggregate of suspended particles and variety of microorganisms associated with extracellular polymeric substances. It is composed of microorganisms such as bacteria, algae, fungi, invertebrates and detritus, etc. Bioflok is also ecofriendly culture system, It reduces environmental impact, Improves land and water use efficiency, limited or zero water exchange, higher productivity, It enhances survival rate, growth performance, feed conversion in the culture systems of fish and higher biosecurity

Tripura: ICAR Tripura stressed on scientific fish production

<http://www.uniindia.com/icar-tripura-stressed-on-scientific-fish-production/east/news/2063087.html>

"Only scientific approach in pisciculture can fulfil the PM's vision plan 'Doubling Farmers' income by 2022-23' in Tripura which the government officers and others are doing their level best to success it. ICAR Tripura Centre through various centrally sponsored projects imparting skilled oriented training to the fish cultivators in different parts of the state with the sole objectives to increase fish production in the state. ICAR extended support for the remote fish farmers of Pilak, South Tripura by supplying fingerlings of Indian major carps, limestone and fish feed on July 2, 2020 in collaboration with it's KVK situated in South Tripura district. According to fishery experts, if culture fishery resources of the State (27,380 ha) are scientifically backed with adoption of proper size of the fingerlings, species composition and feed and fertilization schedule along with fish and pond health management, then, 4-5 MT of fish/ha/year can easily be achieved. Such impetus in composite culture with major carps and also in locally available diversified indigenous species namely Moka, Darkina, Chapila, Tengra, Catfish,Puti, Kanla etc in the state can easily meet its per capita fish consumption at 25 kg/capita/annum by significantly reducing the fish import.

Tripura: Working to increase production in primary sector

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/tripura-working-to-increase-production-in-primary-sector/1815975>

"Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Monday said his government has started work to increase production in primary sectors like agriculture, horticulture, poultry and dairy farming to deal with losses suffered due to the lockdown. He said Tripura usually earns around Rs 1,500 crore per annum from the rubber productions, which suffered losses of Rs 250 crore due to the lockdown imposed to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. Deb said poultry, fisheries, animal husbandry, dairy, agriculture, horticulture and floriculture could generate early income with less investment and may be focused to increase primary sector productivity "" ... considering the present situation, the deadline set by our government for achieving self-sufficiency in primary sectors has been reduced by 1-2 years so that the economy which suffered a lot due to COVID-19 pandemic can be balanced if production could be increased in primary sectors,"" a government press statement quoting the chief minister said on Monday. Deb said his government is considering providing subsidized loans under various government schemes in primary sectors.

""Closure of rubber industries in some states due to lockdown might be the reason for Rs 250 crore losses. So the government has decided to boost the primary sectors as an alternative to increase the revenue,"" he added. ""A good number of people, especially from indigenous communities, are involved in fisheries sector for livelihood. Fish seeds are produced in Tripura. Andhra Pradesh procures fish seeds of Rs 150 crore from West Bengal. If Tripura can meet the demand then the state will earn the same amount and the income of fish cultivators will increase substantially."" Deb said. He said his government is already in touch with Andhra Pradesh on the issue and urged everyone associated with fishery sector to work hard so that Tripura can supply fish seeds to Andhra Pradesh. Deb said Tripura produces plenty of fruits like jackfruit, pineapple and oranges, adding that his government is contemplating to apply ""one district, one fruit or one crop"" formula up to block level to increase productivity three times. Deb also stressed on increasing dairy, agriculture production and output in other primary sectors to achieve self sufficiency. The chief minister also appealed to people to strictly maintain social distancing everywhere in the state. He said, single shops and rural markets could open by maintaining the social distancing norms but urged market committees to follow the norms and guidelines. Deb said his government has planned to engage volunteers for thermal screening of visitors in the markets.

Tripura: Local fish farmers meeting state s daily demand for fish

<https://www.nyoooz.com/news/agartala/1439614/tripura-local-fish-farmers-meeting-state-s-daily-demand-for-fish/>

"Even after no fish trade going on with Bangladesh or any other states from the country, there, however, has been no dearth of fish in Tripura. The Bengali community is known for its fond of fish and even during this lockdown, they are receiving their daily quota of fresh fish. Thanks to the local fish farmers of Tripura, who have been working extremely hard to meet the fish supply-demand of the state. Proper social distancing and hygiene are being maintained while working on the farm. "We are working maintaining proper social distancing to meet the demand for the fish, he said.

Tripura: Fish farming needs a big push: Fishery Experts

<http://www.uniindia.com/fish-farming-needs-a-big-push-in-tripura-fishery-experts-of-tripura/east/news/1842044.html>

"In a recent meeting of Regional Advisory Group (RAG) convened by NABARD, Tripura RO, the experts opined that despite abundant freshwater aquaculture resources in

Tripura, the state is still dependent on other States/ country to meet its demand for fish, which is unfortunate. Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Dean, College of Fisheries (COF) felt that there is an urgent need to develop entrepreneurship in freshwater aquaculture in the state. The fish farmers of the state need technical assistance, better quality seeds and handholding support for progressive farming. He also urged for having better linkage among the Department of Fisheries, COF, NABARD and Banks for information sharing on freshwater aquaculture and also collaboration for better production, productivity, employment creation and revenue generation. An emphasis also must be laid on selective breeding, collaborative approach and better marketing facilities to encourage more people to take up fish farming as a profession in Tripura, supplemented Dr. LopamudraSahoo, Sr.Scientist of ICAR, Agartala. Asked about the other challenges in Tripura, Dr. Sahoo informed that “The mortality rate during spawn and fry stage is nearly 60% to 70%, which is a major challenge for fish farmers of the state. The average growth of fish is expected to be 700 to 800 gms in a year and which must increase. Sunil Kumar, General Manager/OIC, NABARD while addressing the gathering shared that “We have introduced working capital concept, JLG mode of financing, bench mark based model scheme for credit assessment of individual Fish farmers based on their willingness and capacity to go for higher productivity with concessional credit at 7%.

Further, he informed that NABARD will pilot 7.50 MT/ha bench mark based productivity pilot programme for 25 farmers in collaboration with KVKs/ ICAR/ COF with grant component, such as training, cost of Demo and incentive to farmers, whereas cost of production of seed of more than 100 gms, pellet feed, repairing and renovation, etc., will be provided by the Banks as working capital. Anand Kumar, DGM & CRM-SLBC said that financing will not be a constraint if proper assessment of credit needs & of individual farmers is done based on benchmarking of productivity, assured supply of seed and feed along with supervision of credit on continuous basis is arranged in the State. He highlighted that there is huge scope for credit dispensation in the state to the extent of Rs.157 crore if 2000 ha of water area is brought under productivity enhancement programme as per the model proposed by NABARD. He further shared that according to this plan, a farmer with requisite land can get bank loan of Rs 7.08 lakh per ha for renovation, repairing, seed, feed, etc., with a bench mark production of 7.50 MT per ha. Dr. Samir Malla, Fisheries Officer, assured that the Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Tripura will provide all the support for identification of proper beneficiaries for viable and bankable project and will also take measures for providing quality feed, seed, testing the quality, etc.

Tripura: Andhra Pradesh investors keens to fishery

<http://www.uniindia.com/andhra-pradesh-investors-keens-to-fishery-of-tripura/east/news/1822350.html>

"A four members delegation of Andhra Pradesh met Tripura, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb yesterday to explore the possibility of investment in fishery sector of the state considering the supply gap against the daily demand. Besides, discussing the prospect of the fishery in Tripura with the officials, they visited potential locations of the state. At present Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Bangladesh are continued to be the main suppliers of fish to Tripura. According to Chief Minister, Tripura is producing 72,273 MT fish against the annual demand of 96,454 MT and the state government has employed scientific intervention to increase fish production to meet the deficit of total 24,181 MT of fish which comes from the outside.

Tripura: Appropriate technology to be developed in Tripura for increasing fish Production: CM

<http://www.uniindia.com/appropriate-technology-to-be-developed-in-tripura-for-increasing-fish-production-cm/east/news/1701453.html>

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said that the instruction had given to the department of fishery in view of increasing the production of fish here in Tripura and it is important to adopt appropriate technology from India and abroad for increasing fish production. “A total amount of Rs 400 to 450 crore in every financial year has been being paid by the state with an eye to importing fish from others country like Bangladesh and the state Tripura is being exported fish from others Indian state like Andhra Pradesh but it has to be stopped for the benefit of the state”, said Mr Deb. The department of fishery, Government of Tripura has said that the fresh water fishes forms an important food item as it cheap source nutrition for human beings, and a reliable source income and livelihoods to nearly one lakh eighty four thousand seven hundred and eighty people of Tripura. It is a fact that more than 95% of its populace is fish consumers in their daily diet. The Economic Review of Tripura 2017-18 and it is the latest government report which has revealed that the role of Tripura fisheries department towards meeting the food security of State’s population assumes greater significance.

The per capita consumption of fish in the State with 18.91 kg is reported to be highest among the inland States of the country. “This is the first state in the North East to produce seed of fresh water prawn in artificial sea water on a commercial scale and prawn production is expected to be 32.294 MT. However, though there is tremendous potential of available aqua resources in the state, the local production of fish is expected to meet only 20 kg against actual per capita fish consumption demand of 23.48 kg at the end of 2018-19”, informed the report of fishery department published on economic review of Tripura 2017-18. It is the expectation of the officers of fishery department that the other factors have also influenced to raise consumption demand of fish due to population growth, rising incomes, urbanization and improved marketing distribution channels. Thus, the department has taken up initiatives to bridge the gap between demand and supply from local source and to meet the requirement of fish in coming years.

Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura: Local trade between India and Bangladesh in the Meghna Basin

<https://www.thethirdpole.net/en/2019/07/24/local-trade-between-india-and-bangladesh-in-the-meghna-basin/>

With the declaration of river Barak as National Waterway-16 (NW-16) by the Inland Waterways Authority of India, the navigational prospects of the Meghna river system have come to limelight. The Meghna basin, fed by a number of rivers originating in the hills of Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, supports the lives of local riverine communities with its

extensive systems of wetlands, flood plains and fisheries. Inland navigation in these rivers would not only improve hinterland connectivity of this isolated landscape but would also integrate it with mainland India through the Bangladesh-India Inland Waterways Protocol Routes. Karimganj in the state of Assam in India and Zakiganj, in Sylhet Division of Bangladesh, both located on the banks on Kushiya River, are the entry and exit points of trans-boundary cargo through Protocol Route 3 (Kolkata-Karimganj). Improving navigability up to Karimganj and linking it with NW-16 from Bhanga to Lakhimpur (121 kilometres) will provide better transit connectivity between Kolkata and the hinterlands of lower Assam, Tripura, Nagaland Manipur and Mizoram. It can facilitate cargo movement to and from Bangladesh for key commodities such as fly ash and food grains.

The dredging operation between Bhanga and Silchar has already been completed. India and Bangladesh have initiated joint dredging from Ashuganj to Karimganj to improve the navigability of protocol routes. Given these developments, as part of an on-going Oxfam programme on Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSAs), CUTS International has conducted a study in the rivers of Kushiya, Haora and Gumti to explore the prospects of cross-border trade through inland waterways and its possible impact on riverine communities. At present, bank to bank cargo movement using row boats takes place from Karimganj to Zakiganj across the international border of the Kushiya River. Zakiganj on the Bangladeshi side is hardly 300 metres away from the Indian side. Mostly fruits and horticulture commodities such as apples, citrus fruits, grapes, oranges, kinnows, pomegranate, betel nuts, and ginger are exported from India to Bangladesh after their customs clearance. Interestingly, except for oranges, citrus fruits, betel nuts and ginger which are locally produced in Meghalaya and Manipur, other fruits come from North Indian states of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra which are hundreds of kilometres distant.

This trade mostly caters to the local demand across the border in Sylhet, Bangladesh. The total value of export for the year 2018 from Karimganj steamer station was INR 154 million (USD 2.2mn). This arrangement sustains a local support system by engaging people for loading, unloading and transportation of traded commodities from nearby warehouses, thereby providing livelihoods to 400-500 people in each country. All 12 registered boats plying across the border are Bangladeshi boats and the cargo movement is from India to Bangladesh. There are about 40-50 small trucks/pick-up vans engaged in this trade as well. There is also a high demand for Bangladeshi rice and tomato varieties in the border districts of India, but an absence of proper linkages with traders on the Indian side has limited their trade to the informal sector. However, traders in Karimganj are hopeful that if the river is made navigable until the town of Ashuganj in Bangladesh, goods from Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur can reach Sylhet's market, which is a major trading hub in Bangladesh. On the other hand and unlike Assam, inland navigation is not popular in Tripura, India.

Haora and Gumti rivers originate from the hills of Tripura and are primarily used as a source of irrigation and drinking water. Extraction of huge amounts of water from the Gumti River for irrigation purpose has considerably reduced its discharge and velocity and increased sedimentation downstream, thereby impacting navigation. Unlike the trans-boundary trade happening through the land customs stations in Assam and West Bengal, custom stations in Tripura were mostly busy with imports from Bangladesh. Cement is the single most important imported product, accounting for more than 84% of the value of trade on average through the Srimantapur custom station over the last five years. Interestingly, in 2018, more than USD 350,000 worth of coal was imported from Bangladesh, which has no coal deposits of its own, and imports coal itself. Following the ban on coal mining in the Indian state of Meghalaya, Tripura's requirement for its brick kilns and tea factories has been met through these imports, which originally come from Indonesia, South Africa and Australia through Bangladesh's Payra and Chittagong ports. It is then transported to Daudkandi by medium sized vessels/barges. From Daudkandi, it is transported by tucks to Bibir Bazar custom station in Comilla, which is adjacent to Sonamura, India.

Our study has found that the Gumti River is navigable between Daudkandi to Comilla during the whole year. Considering the low lying bridges over the river between Comilla and Daudkandi, small boats of 20-25-tonne capacity make a good case for trans-boundary movements of local goods. For this to come about a few shallow locations close to the border need to be cleared by dredging and Daudkandi-Sonamura stretch should be considered as part of Bangladesh-India Inland Waterways Protocol Routes. Though coal is a commodity of immediate interest to Indian traders, local farmers can also benefit by trading vegetables and other agricultural products provided non-tariff measures related to their standards and port restrictions are addressed. Small-haul trans-boundary trade between Sonamura and Daudkandi through the Gumti River is a promising as it can be done by using 20-25 tonnes vessel capacities. Traders can avail facilities at the land custom stations of Srimantapur and Bibir Bazar in India and Bangladesh, respectively. This is not the case for the Haora river, though. The proximity to well-developed infrastructure at the Integrated Check Post in Agartala, Tripura and the railway connectivity being developed between the two countries through Akhaura makes land and rail based trade easier.

Additionally the Haora River is not only very lean but also does not have navigable depth. In short, the wetlands in the Meghna basin on the Bangladeshi side are rich in fisheries resources and these are of high demand in India. Similarly, vegetables grown in Tripura, India can fetch a good market in Comilla, Bangladesh. Such localised trade can provide better support to the lives of riverine communities, provided necessary regulatory infrastructure for trade facilitation is created. Trade-related infrastructure development such as cargo terminals, warehouses and support services will provide further employment opportunities to the local population. With 29 trans-boundary rivers between India and Bangladesh in the Meghna basin, riverine livelihoods in

border areas are vulnerable. Such locations are generally characterised by inadequate infrastructure, which result in widespread, multi-dimensional poverty. With little or no industrialisation, these border areas are prone to illegal activities including human trafficking and smuggling. Trade-induced improvements in physical and regulatory infrastructure will eventually improve the quality of life of these communities as there will be more employment opportunities leading to decent education and healthcare, among other benefits.

Tripura: Awarded for maintaining cleanest fish market

<http://www.uniindia.com/tripura-awarded-for-maintaining-cleanest-fish-market/east/news/1480339.html>

Tripura has been awarded on 70th Republic Day for maintaining the cleanest and most hygienic fish market in India by National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). The wholesale fish market of M G Bazar in Agartala has been built at the cost of Rs 2.25 Cr with modern facilities including, scientific sanitation system, for which the state entered into the award category. More than 100 fish markets across the country had made entry for the award under swachha market component of Prime Minister's Swachha Bharat Abhiyan last year, which was aimed to create competitive environment among the markets in terms of cleanliness and hygiene, officials of NFDB said here.

Bangladesh: Fish imports to Tripura from Bangladesh resume

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/states/north-east/fish-imports-to-tripura-from-bangladesh-resume/cid/1670565>

Bangladeshi exporters started exporting fish to Tripura early on Saturday after more than three weeks of impasse. Fish export to Tripura stopped after a 10,000kg consignment, valued at \$37,000, got spoiled on September 4 as it could not be transferred to the markets after some goons allegedly demanded "tax" from the Bangladeshi exporters. Secretary of Exporter and Importer Entrepreneur Sangha, Khokan Bhaumick, said Bangladeshi exporters brought 10 truckloads of fish in the morning. "We received a huge consignment of fish today from Bangladesh. The supply crisis in the fish markets has ended," he said. He said a meeting was organised between exporters and importers on Friday evening. "The meeting was fruitful. We are hopeful the trade relations between the two countries will remain cordial. The problem was solved due to intervention by the Tripura BJP general secretary Pratima Bhaumick," he said. He said the BJP leader assured the Bangladeshi exporters that they will face no such problems in the future. Adhir Das, a fish trader at Battala market here, said he expects the prices to come down after the arrival of fresh supplies. Tripura has nearly 40 per cent deficit in fish demand, which is met by importing fish from Andhra Pradesh, Bengal and Bangladesh. The state government has started a few projects to boost fish production and become self-sufficient in this sector.

Tripura: Fish supply hit hard after ‘extortion’ threat to Bangla traders

<http://www.theshillongtimes.com/2018/09/27/tripura-fish-supply-hit-hard-after-extortion-threat-to-bangla-traders/>

The fish-loving citizens of Tripura are facing a harrowing time with Bangladeshi exporters stopping the supply of fish to the state early this month over alleged extortion demand by anti-socials. With only a fortnight to go before the start of the Durga puja festival, the snapping of supply has led to the increase in the prices of fishes like ‘rohu’, ‘katla’, and ‘pabda’ in the state, which is dependent on arrival from Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Bangladesh. The supply was stopped after suspected goons allegedly stopped some exporters from entering the state after they refused to pay ‘tola’ (extortion money) at the Agartala-Akhaura integrated-checkpoint on September 4. A sizeable amount of fish enters the markets through the checkpoint, a customs official on the condition of anonymity on Wednesday. Around 10,000 kg of fish, therefore, got spoiled, resulting in the loss of around 37,000 USD (approximately Rs 26,87,495 at current rates), he added. When the Indian traders contacted their counterparts in Bangladesh, they clearly stated that if a responsible government official from India give a written assurance against any illegal interference in the trade in future, only then would they resume fish exports, the official said.

“There was a meeting of the exporters from Bangladesh in their country on September 17, during which they raised a question about how would they be compensated for their loss on September 4,” an executive of the Agartala Exporter and Importer Entrepreneur Sangha said. The joint director of the state fisheries department, Abani Debbarma, said roughly 70 per cent of the total consumption of fish was produced in the state and the rest comes from Bangladesh, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. The total consumption of fish per year in Tripura is 92,000 million tonnes, of which 72,276 million tonnes are produced in the state and the rest comes from outside, including Bangladesh. The per-capita fish consumption is around 22 kg in the state. Speaking on the issue, ruling Bharatiya Janata Party’s state vice-president, Pratima Bhowmik, said she would take the initiative to solve the problem. “I will hold a meeting with the exporters and importers of the state to discuss how the problem can be solved. I am hopeful a solution will come out,” she told PTI.

A fish trader, Adhir Das, who sells fish at the Battala Market, the capital’s main market, said, “The price of fish is soaring every day, because production in the state is not sufficient for consumption. We are facing livelihood problem because there are hardly any customers. We are facing the problem for the last one month.” When contacted, Selim Shah, economics professor at Tripura University, said, “Tripura is not self-reliant in fish production. We mainly depend on fish from Andhra Pradesh and Bangladesh.” “The people are fond of fish from Bangladesh, because those are fresh. Durga puja is also knocking at the door. Requirement of fish is more during the

festive season,” Shah said, expressing apprehensions that if the stalemate continued, fish would be out of reach of the common people.

Bangladesh: Fish import from Bangladesh to Tripura stopped for 20 days

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/news/fish-import-from-bangladesh-to-tripura-stopped-for-20-days/>

“Bangladeshi exporters have stopped exporting fish to Tripura after a damage to 10,000 kg of fish valued at Rs 22 lakh on September 5 due to some ‘monetary disputes’. The fish was damaged as these could not be off-loaded timely,” a senior Customs official said, but requested not to be named. He said: “Bangladeshi fish exporters want security during cross border trading. Fish traders of India and Bangladesh are likely to meet here on Wednesday to settle the dispute.” Bangladeshi media quoting the traders across the border said that some people in Agartala-Akhaura border demanded donation from the fish traders causing the disputes among the traders. On an average 14,000 to 15,000 kg of various fish, excluding delicious hilsa fish, is being imported from Bangladesh to Tripura through the Agartala-Akhaura integrated checkpoints, just along the Agartala capital city. A fish trader said that due to no import from Bangladesh, over 200 loading and unloading labourers and transport workers remained jobless during the past 20 days. Industry and Commerce Department, Customs and Agartala Land Port Authority officials refused to comment on the “sensitive and disputed issue”.

Meanwhile, an official of the Agartala Land Port Authority said that Bangladesh has reportedly lifted a 2012 ban on the export of their national fish hilsa (or Elish), whose key markets include India, to check its smuggling and tap into the growing global demand for the popular but scarce food species. Bangladesh’s Ministry of Commerce had banned the export of hilsa fish on August 1, 2012 due to its low availability. “Though the Bangladesh government reportedly withdraws the ban on the export of hilsa fish to India, the decision was not executed through the India-Bangladesh border with Tripura,” the Agartala Land Port Authority official said. Tripura imports on an average 32,000 kg fish daily from other states, specially from Andhra Pradesh, to meet its local demands.

Tripura: Nine new items added to Tripura's list of exports to Bangladesh

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/nine-new-items-added-to-tripura-s-list-of-exports-to-b-desh-118092501089_1.html

Nine new items have been added to the list of export items to Bangladesh from Tripura, taking the total number of products to be shipped to the neighbouring country to 30, official sources said. In a notification issued Tuesday, the director of Industries and Commerce Department, Sandip R Rathore, said the nine approved items, including rice, dry fish and soyabean seeds, will be exported to the neighbouring country through three land custom stations of the state. The state

so far had been exporting 21 commodities to Bangladesh through eight land custom stations. "While rice, betel leaves and dry fish would be exported through Srimantapur station in Sipahijala and Manughat station in South Tripura, rubber latex, bamboo-based products, broomstick, soyabean seeds, spare parts of CNG-run vehicles and maize would reach the neighbouring country through Agartala-Akhaura International Check Post," he said. Debashish Nandi, the manager of Agartala-Akhaura ICP, asserted that fish and other perishable organic items will go through several rounds of inspections before they are shipped to the neighbouring country.

Welcoming the Bangladesh government's decision, Tripura Chamber of Commerce and Industries (TCCI) president ML Debnath said Tuesday the move would increase the export volume from Tripura. "We had imports worth Rs 300 crore from Bangladesh in the last financial year, but the value of total exports did not exceed Rs 80 lakh. Trade balance needs to be established along the Tripura-Bangladesh border," Debnath added. Earlier in March, TCCI had proposed relaxing policy restrictions on a number of items for export to Bangladesh. The list was later amended following a series of discussions with Bangladesh government officials.

Bangladesh: To stop fish exports to Tripura

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2018/09/11/bangladesh-to-stop-fish-exports-to-tripura>

According to sources at the Agartala-Akhaura Integrated Check Post, Bangladesh is going to stop exporting fish to Tripura from Saturday. "Bangladesh has decided to stop exporting fish to Tripura. However, it is not their fault. It is the fault of importers in Tripura, who are embroiled in internal disputes," the sources said, on condition of anonymity. "A shipment of fish arrived here last Wednesday. After necessary procedures at the integrated check post, gate-passes were allotted at 9am. However, various quarters have claimed that delivery of the shipment to the markets was delayed due to internal clashes between importers. As a result, the fish began decomposing," they added. "Consequently, Bangladeshi exporters incurred huge losses. Naturally, they demanded compensation from the importers in Tripura, and said they would never export fish to Tripura otherwise," the sources continued. Furthermore, there has been a hike in the prices of fish in Tripura, as the Indian state is heavily dependent on fish imports from Bangladesh. Tripura usually imports 12-15 tons of fish from Bangladesh every day.

Tripura: Fisheries Dept backs Tripura CM's duck-oxygen theory

<http://www.india.com/news/agencies/fisheries-dept-backs-tripura-cms-duck-oxygen-theory-3262263/>

Rameshwar Das, the Principal Secretary of Tripura's Fisheries Department, has backed Chief Minister Biplab Deb's comments about raising oxygen levels in water bodies by releasing ducks, saying that bird is a natural aerator and its presence in water bodies provides multiple benefits.

“The practice of introducing something else with fish is known as Integrated Fish Farming. It is used in animal husbandry, agriculture, etc. There are several benefits of introducing ducks with fish. Firstly their droppings increase the fertility and helps raise the level of plankton in the water, which the fish consume, hence helping them grow,” Das told ANI. Das further explained how ducks act as natural aerators, “Fish require dissolved oxygen. The surface area of the water body is directly proportional to the dissolved oxygen, and to increase the surface area, there needs to be a disturbance on the surface, it cannot be still. So, when ducks swim on water, they act as natural aerators, and with ducks not there, we have to artificially aerate the waters,” he said.

Raising similar points as Das, a scientist at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Ajay Debarma also said that ducks acted as natural aerators and that their droppings were beneficial for the growth of fish, saying that studies and research prove the same. Meanwhile, citing a research by Chhattisgarh’s Indira Gandhi Agriculture University that proves the Chief Minister’s points are valid, Sanjay Mishra, the Officer on Special Duty to Deb, said that the controversy was sparked to dent the Chief Minister’s image. “This isn’t the first time that such a controversy has erupted over the Chief Minister’s speech. Those present at the spot understood what he was saying and didn’t start any controversy, but those not present there did. This has been happening to tarnish his image,” Mishra told ANI. On Monday, Dev said that he would distribute as many as 50,000 indigenous ducks to people living close to water bodies, stating that ducks will add to the aesthetic beauty and help increase the oxygen levels in the water. According to media reports, the Chief Minister was criticised and mocked over his comments, with Tripura Pradesh Congress’ Tapas Dey saying that scientific evidence should be relied upon for policy making.

Tripura: Backward state in fish production, 20551 17 MT fish imported from others state

<http://www.uniindia.com/tripura-is-backward-state-in-fish-production-20551-17-mt-fish-imported-from-others-state/states/news/1309566.html>

The Economic Review of Tripura reveals that the state in which 95 per cent people are fish eater and local production of fish in Tripura is 71,981.28 MT. The demand for fish is high, the state exports fish from others state. A total of 20,551.17 MT fish imported in the year 2016-17 from Bangladesh and others state of India, informed by Directorate of Economics & Statistics Planning (Statistics) Department, Government of Tripura, Agartala. A total of 11,783.27 MT fish imported from Bangladesh and 8,767.90 MT fish also imported from others state of India for the fulfillment of fish demand in Tripura, informed the report of Economic Review of Tripura, 2016-17. The total availability of fish in Tripura is 92,532.45 MT. The officers of fishery department, Government of Tripura informed that there is tremendous potential of available aqua resources in the state, the local production of fish can meet only 18.91 kg against actual per capita fish consumption demand of 22.28 kg at the end of 2015-16. The other factors have also influenced

to raise consumption demand of fish due to population growth, rising incomes, urbanization and improved marketing distribution channels.

Thus, the department has given much emphasis to reduce the gap between consumption demand and local production and to fulfill the consumption requirement of fish in coming years for its populace through implementation of various schemes in the State, added officers of fishery department of Tripura. The scientists of fishery department said on the basis of the statistical report that fish remains an important favored food commodity as well as provides a great source of nutrition, income and livelihoods for nearly one lakh eighty two thousand people in Tripura. Besides, fish being an important constituent of daily diet of more than 95 per cent of its populace, the role played by fisheries department of Tripura towards the food security of State's population is significant. The per capita consumption of fish in the State is reported to be highest among the Inland States of the country. The state Tripura has made considerable achievements with regard to carp seed production. Presently, Tripura is surplus in fish seed production. This is the first state in the North East, rather one of the very few land locked States of the country, to produce seed of fresh water prawn in artificial sea water on a commercial scale, informed the fishery department.

Tripura: Monsoon fury hits Tripura, floods leave over 3,000 families homeless

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/monsoon-fury-hits-tripura-floods-leave-over-3-000-families-homeless/story-W6fGfURjXsFi7i3wAGbz7K.html>

Two persons including a child were killed and over three thousand families have been rendered homeless as torrential rain in the last 24 hours triggered folds in Tripura. The state witnessed a rainfall of 86 mm in the last 24 hours and the situation could worsen further with the Met Department warning of heavy rain in next 24 hours. A report from State Emergency Operation Centre said that a total 3472 homeless families took shelter in 64 camps set up by the state government throughout the state and about 41 houses were damaged in the flood. A State Emergency Operation Centre official said a child was killed in the flood in South District. One man was reported missing and suspected to be washed away in the flood in Sabroom in South District and one woman was injured in a landslide in Dhalai district. The rain triggered landslides in 17 locations.

Eleven of the landslides occurred in Khowai district, one in Gomati and five in Dhalai. All major rivers in the state are flowing above normal. Although all eight district of the state have been flooded, there have been no reports of damage and homeless families from Sepahijala and West districts. Tripura has recorded a rainfall of 275.9 mm since June 1 after an exponential rise in pre-monsoon rain. This year, a total 979.9 mm pre-monsoon rainfall was recorded against an average of 574.2 mm. "The state received 75% more rainfall on an average than the normal pre-

monsoon rainfall. This is an exception this year,” a Met official said. Last month, six people were killed and over 17,000 families were rendered homeless due to floods.

Tripura: Fish export to Tripura through Akhaura land port resumes

<http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2017/05/22/71242/Fish-export-to-Tripura-through-Akhaura-land-port-resumes>

After two and a half months of suspension, fish export to Indian Tripura state through Akhaura land port resumed on Monday. Senior Vice President of Akhaura land port's Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) Agent's Association Nisar Uddin Bhuiyan said 3,200 kgs of fish were sent to Tripura through the land port at 11:45am, reports UNB. He also termed the allegation of formalin use in fish as a conspiracy of Indian traders to stop fish import from Bangladesh. Earlier, on 6 March, Indian traders suspended fish import alleging existence of formalin in fish imported from Bangladesh. However, the Indian traders warned they will stop fish import again if formalin is detected.

Tripura: Formalin being used to preserve fish in Tripura: Minister

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/formalin-being-used-to-preserve-fish-in-tripura-minister-117022800947_1.html

Preservative formalin having an adverse impact on human body was found in 11 fish samples in Agartala markets, which forced the Tripura government to take "severe action". "Following the media reports, the state health department officials collected 40 fish samples from Agartala and formalin was found in 11 samples," Tripura Health Minister Badal Choudhury said in the Tripura assembly on Tuesday. Formalin, a poisonous and non-decomposing chemical agent, is used as an antiseptic, disinfectant and preservative in various items. Replying to a calling attention notice, he told the assembly: "Officials have been asked to take severe legal action against the accused and wrongdoers." The calling attention notice was earlier jointly given by opposition Trinamool Congress lawmakers Ashish Saha and Pranjit Singh Roy. The minister said of the 11 fish samples in which laboratory tests showed formalin was used, five samples were collected from two main fish markets of Agartala and six were collected from fish imported from Bangladesh. Choudhury said a massive awareness campaign was also undertaken against the use of formalin in eatable items.

"Food Safety Officers are collecting samples randomly from the open market and testing them in laboratories. Under the Food Safety Security Act and Rules, 2011, if anyone is found guilty, the defaulter may face a penalty of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 10 lakh or imprisonment or both," the Health Minister warned. The Tripura government has taken steps to appoint Food Safety Officer in each sub-division to ensure proper vigilance against food adulteration. District Sessions Judges are designated to hear such cases and dispose them at the earliest, he added. An official of the

industries and commerce department said on an average, 25,644 kg fish are being daily imported from Bangladesh and 26,180 kg from outside the state, including Andhra Pradesh, in Tripura. "These fish being imported from Bangladesh and other Indian states are being sold in Tripura markets without any laboratory tests," the official told IANS on condition of anonymity.

Manipur and Tripura: Training programme on "Value added fish products"

A three day training programme on 'Value added fish products: Technology for Empowerment of Women' which started on January 19 ended yesterday. The programme was organised by College of Fisheries, Lembucherra, Tripura (affiliated to CAU, Imphal) in collaboration with Directorate of Extension Education, CAU, Imphal and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Imphal East. The training was conducted under the guidance of Dr RK Majumdar, Associate Professor of the College of Fisheries and to promote women entrepreneurship and empowerment in the fishery sector. 30 women between the age of 20 and 35 participated in the training programme. Preparation of different value added products viz fish pickle, fish cutlet, fish finger, fish momo, fish pakora, fish sandwich from locally available low cost fish were demonstrated during the training.