

Schemes for Relief and Welfare of SC Fishermen A Quick Assessment

**Srinivasa Reddy Mandala
Hanumantha Rao Kavalipurapu**



CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES

(Planning Dept, Govt. of Telangana & ICSSR – Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

BEGUMPET, HYDERABAD

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Foreword

The Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) was established in 1980 to undertake research in the field of economic and social development in India. The Centre recognizes that a comprehensive study of economic and social development issues requires an interdisciplinary approach and tries to involve researchers from various disciplines. The Centre's focus has been on policy relevant research through empirical investigation with sound methodology. Being a think tank, it has focused on, among other things, several distinctive features of the development process of Andhra Pradesh earlier. Presently the Centre is focusing on the development process of Telangana state. Meanwhile, its research activities have expanded to cover other states and issues at the national level. In keeping with the interests of the faculty, CESS has developed expertise on themes such as economic growth and equity, rural development and poverty, agriculture and food security, irrigation and water management, public finance, demography, health, environment and other studies. It is important to recognize the need to reorient the priorities of research taking in to account contemporary and emerging problems.

Dissemination of research findings to fellow researchers and policy thinkers is an important dimension of policy relevant research as it contributes to policy formulation and evaluation. CESS has published several Books, Journal Articles, Working Papers and Monographs over the years. The Monographs are basically Research Studies and Project Reports done at the Centre. They provide an opportunity for CESS faculty, visiting scholars and students to disseminate their research findings in an elaborate form.

The present Monograph titled "Schemes for Relief and Welfare of SC Fishermen: A Quick Assessment" by Srinivasa Reddy Mandala, Hanumantha Rao Kavalipurapu, is one of the outcomes of a larger study on 'Evaluation on Schemes for Relief and Welfare of Scheduled Caste Fishermen: A Quick Assessment' undertaken by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research Unit funded by the Director, Scheduled Caste Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Caste Component Plan.

The newly formed state of Andhra Pradesh has launched several schemes under the Scheduled Castes Component for the welfare of Scheduled Castes. The study examines the issues of selection of beneficiaries, transaction costs incurred, problems of managing

the schemes, benefits realised and suggestions for better management of four selected schemes. Schemes with good sample sizes are discussed in detail and those with small sample sizes are presented as case studies. Qualitative as well as quantitative research methods have been used for the study. The coverage of beneficiaries was biased in favour of Mala and Madiga sub-castes and other sub-castes were hardly included. The reasons for the same have to be identified and selection process should be made more inclusive.

The costs for processing the application were about 10-20 per cent of the unit costs and this is an indication of rent-seeking behaviour of the delivery system and corruptive attitude of some of the local leaders. The schemes helped many in terms of improved social status and credit worthiness. Quite a significant proportion of households crossed the poverty line due to the schemes with a high unit cost. Resource use efficiency has been found to be good. Based on the study findings, a few measures were recommended for making the schemes vibrant and remunerative avocation to Scheduled Castes fishers.

I hope this work proves useful to the fishermen community, researchers, policy makers, development practitioners and all those interested in the resource use efficiency and making the schemes vibrant.

E. Revathi
Director, CESS

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Acronyms and Abbreviations Used

APL	Above Poverty Line
BPL	Below Poverty Line
DC	District Collector
DDU- GK Y	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana
DFO	District Fisheries Office
DKT	Dharakastu Patta/Darakastu Patta land
DoF	Department of Fisheries
EPA	Entry Point Activity
F&R	Friends and Relatives
FCSs	Fishermen Cooperative Societies
FGDs	Focused Group Discussions
FPCs	Fisher Producers Companies
Fr.	Frequently
FRP	Fiber Reinforced Plastic
GS	Grama Sabha
GB	General Body
GoAP	Government of Andhra Pradesh
GoI	Government of India
GP	Gram Panchayat
HHI	Household Income
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ID	Identification
IFTCs	Inland Fisheries Training Centres
IGAs	Income Generation Activities
JBMVC	Janma Bhoomi Maa Vooru Committee
JDF	Joint Director of Fisheries
Kg.	kilogram
LHs	License Holders
LNP	Lower Non Poor
LS	Less Severe
Ltd.	Limited
MC	Management Committee
MGNREGA	The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
MMG	Matsya Mithra Group
MPFAs	Multi-Purpose Fishery Assistants
MPP	Mandal Parishad President
MPTC	Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency
NFDB	National Fisheries Development Board
NG	Not Good
NP	Non Poor
Occ.	Occasionally
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PWD	Public Works Department
RF	Revolving Fund
RKVY	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
Rs.	Rupees
RSETI	Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute
RIA	Regional Transport Authority
RTO	Regional Transport Office
Rythu Bazar	Farmer's Market (Direct Marketing Model)
SAMETTI	State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute
SC	Scheduled Castes
SCC	Scheduled Castes Component
SCFCSs	Scheduled Castes Fishermen Cooperative Societies
SCSP	Scheduled Castes Sub - Plan
SDP	Special Development Programme
SHGs	Self - Help Groups
SWD	Social Welfare Department
VGC	Very Good but Costly
VGR	Very Good and Reasonable
VS	Very Severe

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Srinivasa Reddy Mandala
Hanumantha Rao Kavalipurapu

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The newly formed state of Andhra Pradesh has launched several schemes under Scheduled Castes Component (Earlier Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan: SCSP) for the welfare of Scheduled Castes. This study was done to review the process of selection of beneficiaries, transaction costs incurred, problems of managing the scheme, benefits realized and suggestions for better management of the schemes. Based on the district-wise and scheme - wise targets, one district from the North Coastal, Central Coastal, South Coastal and Rayalaseema were selected. The target realization was not high in the study districts. Five Schemes with better sample sizes were discussed in detail. Six Schemes with small sample sizes were presented as cases. Data were collected using Structured Interview Schedules and focused group discussions.

The coverage of beneficiaries was biased in favour of Mala and Madiga sub-castes and other sub-castes were hardly included. The reasons for the same have to be identified and selection process should be made more inclusive. The poor were allotted schemes with low unit costs such as Nets and Ice Boxes (the poor among Scheduled Castes beneficiaries were given schemes with low unit costs as such as Nets and Ice Boxes). The costs borne by the beneficiaries for getting their applications processed were about 10 -20 per cent of the unit costs and this is an indication of rent seeking behavior of the delivery system and corruptive attitude of some of the local officials / leaders. The officials, Fishermen Cooperative Societies and local leaders were the agencies helping the aspirants in building awareness about the state funded schemes and also in accessing the schemes. The beneficiaries, by and large, could get the scheme of their choice and were happy with the scheme. There were information inadequacies and problems in management of some of the schemes which need to be corrected.

Except for a few cases, the net benefits were positive and the incomes from the scheme became the major source of household income for the beneficiaries. The schemes helped many in terms of improved social status and credit worthiness. A significant proportion of households crossed or came above the poverty due to the schemes with high unit cost. In the case of schemes with low unit cost, it would be advisable to provide integrated schemes rather than offer solutions in a piece-meal way. The relatively better-off people were doled away schemes or interventions of schemes with higher outlay and the support system was also more responsive to their

needs. The impact was moderate as expected in the case of small schemes such as poverty reduction. The resource use efficiency may not be adequate to close the poverty gap of the beneficiaries considered for schemes with low unit cost. Suggestions for better management of the schemes were made by the beneficiaries. The functioning of eight Scheduled Castes Fishermen Cooperatives was examined and action points for better functioning were indicated and prominent among them are reduction in so called processing cost and curtail malpractices in beneficiary selection. Based on the study findings, a few measures were also recommended for making the schemes vibrant.

Section - 1

1. Introduction

The fisheries sector is one of the fast growing sectors having good potential for income and employment generation in the country and specifically in the state of Andhra Pradesh. But the growth has not benefitted the tiny producers in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The Agricultural Commission of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP: 2016) ¹ has highlighted the vulnerable conditions of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and fishermen in the state. It underscored the need for revitalizing the livelihood system of these fishermen communities by intervening in the production, processing and marketing domains. The newly formed state of Andhra Pradesh has brought out several schemes to make a positive impact on the productivity and incomes of these vulnerable groups and particularly those fishermen belonging to SCs. There are 273 Scheduled Castes Fishermen Cooperative Societies (SCFCSs) with a membership of 26,133 fishermen in the state and an estimated 8732 SC fishermen had membership in other FCSs in 2014.

An integrated model of development was envisaged for empowerment of SC fishers through introduction of modern fish culture practices, development of post-harvest infrastructure for retail fish marketing. Accordingly the state has designed several schemes to help the SC fishermen to overcome the problems in production (supply fish seeds, manures, nets and boats), marketing (supply of vehicles with ice boxes for hygiene, vehicles for quick transport of fish to processing units and markets) and capacity building. Construction of community halls and laying of approach road from village to fish tanks were some of the other measures undertaken by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). Further, it intends to provide assistance for establishment of information *Kiosks* (dissemination of information on technologies and markets). These interventions are expected to bring improvements in the supply chain and increase the incomes of these SC fishers besides stimulating demand for fish.

During 2017-18, the state has proposed variety of schemes with an outlay of Rs. 5931 lakh to provide assistance to retail fish marketing, supply of Two/ Three/ Four Wheelers with ice box/freezer mounted vehicles for fish vending, establishing of fish retail kiosk

¹ Professor R.Radhakrishna is the Chairman of the Commission.

and supply of fish seed transport vans. Further, it was also proposed to extend financial assistance for construction and renovation of aquaculture farm ponds in *Dharakastu Patta* (DKT) lands along with input cost assistance. All these schemes attract 90 per cent subsidy. As per the budgeted estimates, the schemes of cycle with nets and ice box (Rs.1436 lakh) and seed transport vans (Rs.1250 lakh) account for bulk of the outlay and also the proposed number of units under these schemes were 1596 and 2500 respectively. While district-wise information on these schemes was available for 2017-18, such details were not available for the preceding years.

To ensure the success and sustainability of such interventions, periodic monitoring/ concurrent assessment of these schemes is a pre-requisite. It is proposed to examine the functioning of these schemes to elicit information on operational problems and perceptions of the stakeholders with a view to initiate remedial actions, if necessary so as to ensure their success and maximize the returns on investment for improved welfare of fishers.

Section - II

Objectives, Hypotheses, Sampling Design and Approach

Objectives :

The main objectives of the study include:

- i. To examine the socio-economic profiles of sample beneficiaries;
- ii. To assess the awareness levels of beneficiaries about Scheduled Castes welfare schemes and the sources of information;
- iii. To estimate the transaction costs and delays in obtaining the scheme benefits;
- iv. To find out the information in adequacies and main problems in managing the assets created out of such schemes;
- v. To ascertain the flow of benefits and net gains due to scheme; and
- vi. To document the suggestions for better management of the scheme as well as the changes in the design of the scheme.

Hypotheses:

The scheme may emerge as one of the major sources of income to the beneficiary household's education level and earlier exposure to fisheries' scheme would contribute significantly to scheme income.

Sampling Design and Approach:

Multi – stage random sampling was adopted for selecting the units and the scheme beneficiaries. The nine Coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh were grouped in to three regions for this study i.e. North Coastal (Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam), Central Coastal (East and West Godavari and Krishna) and South Coastal (Guntur, Prakasam and Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore: SPS Nellore). Rayalaseema (YSR Kadapa (formerly known as Kadapa District), Kurnool, Anantapuramu and Chittoor) was treated as the fourth region. Based on the district-wise and scheme-wise data, one district was selected randomly in each region. Thus the selected districts are Srikakulam, East

Godavari, Nellore and Kurnool. Mandals with good concentration of schemes were chosen as second stage sampling units. Since the actual coverage and targets were different, the data on the former was provided by the District Fisheries Office (DFO). From the selected Mandals, the list of beneficiaries, scheme-wise and village-wise, was collected from the district office of the Joint Director of Fisheries (JDF). From these, the sample villages and beneficiaries were selected. For schemes with greater coverage, a random sample of 15-20 beneficiaries was drawn. All the available units were covered when ever the coverage was small.

The details of the schemes and SC beneficiaries were shown in Tables 1 to 3. Scheme/ Institution-wise beneficiaries details are given in *Annexure-1*. District-wise Fishermen Activities in AP: 2017 are given in *Annexure-2*. The information on unit cost, subsidy and beneficiary contribution was presented in Table 4.

The Field Survey was undertaken during March and April 2018 with 2017-18 as the reference period. A structured schedule was canvassed to all the selected beneficiaries and information was collected regarding socio-economic particulars, type of fishing activity, institutional association, awareness of the schemes under Scheduled Caste Component (SCC: Earlier Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan: SCSP), agency which helped in getting the scheme, transaction costs and delays in grounding the scheme, adequacy of assistance, source of funding, possession of skills, training imparted and its utility, information inadequacies and sources of information, problems in management of the scheme, benefits accrued and suggestions for improvement. A few focused group discussions (FGDs) and semi-structured interviews with officials were held to get better insights in to the gamut of activities. A sample of eight (8) SC FCSs was studied in detail about their functioning – size and composition of members, tenure and functions of board members, issues usually discussed in General Body (GB) meeting, services provided to the members and suggestions for better performance. The data obtained from the field were analyzed to examine the objectives.

In *Part - I*, schemes with large sample were covered. All those schemes with a few beneficiaries were discussed as cases and presented in *Part - II* of the section on “discussion of the results”. The poverty norm of Rs. 1.2 lakh per family per annum was adjusted for sample size. The poverty ratios before and after scheme were assessed by adopting the poverty line of Rs.30,000 income per capita per annum.

In the sample Mandals, the schemes viz., establishment of Fish Retail *Kiosk* and Construction and Renovation of Aquaculture Farm Ponds in *DKT* lands were not grounded.

Mode of implementation is more or less same for all schemes. The DFO will identify the eligible beneficiaries as per the criteria in the *Janma Bhoomi Maa Vooru Committee* (JBMVC) meeting. The list will be approved by the District Collector (DC). The DC will empanel the list of vehicle and other material suppliers and the rates offered by them for enabling the beneficiaries to select the suppliers as per their choice. All the aspirants of 2/3/4 wheelers including the reefer van and seed transport van should possess valid driving license or in the process of earning driving license. The beneficiaries should submit details like *Aadhaar* Card number, bank account number and mobile number so that these will be linked to the Scheme. The vehicle shall be hypothecated in the name of District Fisheries Officer (DFO) for a minimum period of three years.

The main eligibility conditions are that :

The aspirants should belong to SC community and members of either FCS or *Matsya Mithra* Groups (MMGs) or should be License Holder or Un-employed Youth engaged in or desirous of engaged in fishing/ fish marketing activity.

Table 1: List of Study Districts, Mandals, Villages and Schemes Covered under SCC

District	Mandals	Villages	Schemes
Srikakulam	Jalumuru, Srikakulam, Gara, Rajam and Harijanveedhi,	Jalumuru, Harijanveedhi, pedda Gangallapeta, Ampolu, chinthuvalasa, gadimudidam, Kistappapeta, Killipalem, Kurmanadhapura, Sunkarpalem, Korlam, Tulagam, Vomaravalli and Komanpally	Reefer Van, Seed Transport Vehicle, 2, 3 and 4 wheelers, Cycle and nets, Ice Boxes and Community Nets
East Godavari	Korukonda and Rajanagaram	Kapavaram, Nidigatla, Dosakayala Palli, Kanupuru, Narendrapuram, Venkatapuram, East Gonagudem, kalavacherla, seetharamapuram, Ferizellapeta, Nandarada	3 Wheelers, Nets, Boat and Fishing Implements
SPS Nellore	Venkatachalam, Bogolu and Manubolu	Talluru, Kanupur, Baddavolu, Kattuvapalli, Anikepalli, Mallugunta, Kasumuru, Kadanuthula, Kom Malapudi	3 and 2 Wheeler, Cycles /Nets, Cycles/Net/Boat
Kurnool	Pamulapadu, Kothapalli, Pagidyala, Kurnool, Panyam and Adoni	Vempenta, K Bankacherla, Tummaluru, Yerramattam, Pedda gummadarapuram, KYellala, P. Muchumarri, Nehrunagar, PK Pragatoor, Tummaluru	Ice Box, Nets, Boat /Net, Coracle (supported by Government of India)

Source: 1. District JDFs of Srikakulam, East Godavari, SPS Nellore and Kurnool
2. Field Survey (PRA/FGD Methods)

Table 2.1: Scheme-wise No. of Beneficiaries Details of Coverage of Sample Districts/Mandals

District/Mandal	Refer Van	Seed Transport Vehicle	4 Wheeler	3 Wheeler	2 Wheeler	Cycle/ Nets	Ice Boxes	Community Nets	Nets	Boat/Net (FRP/ Other)	Coracles (GoI)	Revolving Fund to MMGs (GoAP)
1. Srikakulam												
Jalumuru			1			5	5	1				
Srikakulam		2	2	1	3							
Gara	1	1	2		10		5	1				
Rajam				1								
Hirmandalam					2	10	5					
2. East Godavari												
Korukonda				3					8			
Rajanagaram				1					7			
3. SPS Nellore												
Venkatachalam				6	5							
Bogolu				1	5	1	5					
Manubolu				8	5							
4. Kurnool												
Pamulapadu							8			5		
Kothapalli									10	5	10	
Pagidyala							7			5		
Kurnool									5			
Panyam											5	1
Adoni												5

Source: District JDFs of Srikakulam, East Godavari, SPS Nellore and Kurnool

Note: GoI/GoAP: 50 per cent subsidy

Table 2.2: Scheme-wise No. of Beneficiary Details and Coverage of Districts/Mandals under SCC

District/Mandal	Refer Van	Seed Transport Vehicle	4 Wheeler	3 Wheeler	2 Wheeler	Cycle/ Nets	Ice Boxes	Community Nets	Nets	Boat/Net (FRP/ Other)	Coracles (GoI)	Revolving Fund to MMGs (GoAP)
1. Srikakulam												
Jalumuru			1(1)			16 (5)	48 (5)	1(1)				
Srikakulam		2(2)	2(2)	1(1)	4(3)							
Gara	1(1)	1(1)	2(2)		13(10)		36(5)	1(1)				
Rajam				1(1)								
Hirmandalam					2(2)	43(10)	20 (5)					
2. East Godavari												
Korukonda				3(3)					72 (8)			
Rajanagaram				1(1)					65 (7)			
3. SPS Nellore												
Venkatachalam				6(6)	27 (5)							
Bogolu				1(1)	10 (5)	41(15)						
Manubolu				118)	29(5)							
4. Kurnool												
Pamulapadu							27 (8)		37	42 (5)		
Kothapalli									61(10)	24 (5)	61(10)	
Pagidyala							24 (7)		30	53 (5)		
Kurnool									20 (5)	4		
Panyam									20		32 (5)	1(1)
Adoni												5(5)

Source: District JDFs of Srikakulam, East Godavari, SPS Nellore and Kurnool

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the No. of Sample Beneficiaries

Table 3: District/Scheme-wise No. of Beneficiaries Selected

District	Refer Van	Seed Transport Vehicle	4 Wheeler	3 Wheeler	2 Wheeler	Cycle/ Nets (Trade Cycles)	Ice Boxes	Nets/ (Inland/ Others)	Boat/Net (FRP/ Other)	Coracles (GoI)	Community Nets	Revolving Fund to MMGs (GoAP)
Srikakulam	1	3	5	2	15	15	15	-	-	-	2	-
East Godavari	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-
SPS Nellore	-	-	-	15	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kurnool	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15	15	15	-	6
Total	1	3	5	21	30	30	30	30	15	-	2	6

Source: 1. Offices of the District Joint Director Fisheries of Srikakulam, East Godavari, SPS Nellore and Kurnool
2. Field Survey (PRA/FGD Methods)

Table 4: Scheme-wise and Component-wise Unit Cost, Subsidy and Beneficiary Contribution Details under SCC (in Rs.)

Sl. No.	Component	Scheme / Unit	Total Unit Cost (in Rs.)	Amount of Subsidy (in Rs.)	%	Beneficiary Contribution (in Rs.)	%	Beneficiary DD Charges (Rs.)
1	SCC	Four Wheelers	440000	396000	90	44000	10	500
2	SCC	Three Wheelers	240000	216000	90	24000	10	500
3	SCC	Refer Van	1538142	1384328	90	153814	10	2000
4	SCC	Seed Transport Vehicle	1000000	900000	90	100000	10	1000
5	SCC	Two Wheelers	44500	40500	90	4000	10	25
6	SCC	Ice Boxes (SKLM,EG)	6000	5400	90	540	10	25
7	SCC	Cycle and Nets	10000	9000	90	1000	10	300
8	SCC	Community Nets	200000	180000	90	20000	10	25
9	SCC	Inland Nets or Nets	10000	9000	90	1000	10	60
10	SCC	Community Nets	200000	180000	90	20000	10	25
11	SCC	FRP Boat with Net (1+1)	30000	27000	90	3000	10	25
12	SCC	Dhoni+Nets	30000	27000	90	3000	10	25
13	SCC	Boats and Nets	10000	9000	90	1000	10	25
14	GoI.	Coracles (Kurnool and Nellore)	3400	6800	50	3400	50	25
15	State Govt.	Nets (on 50 per cent subsidy)	10000	5000	50	5000	50	25
16	GoI	Revolving Fund to MMGs		100000	0	0	0	

Note: SCC: Scheduled Castes Component (Earlier Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan); GoI: Government of India; MMGs: Matsya Mitra Groups;

DD: Demand Draft; SKLM: Srikakulam; EG: East Godavari; FRP: Fibre Reinforced Plastic; Rs. Rupees

Source: Director Social Welfare Department (SC) and Commissioner of Fisheries, Vijayawada

Section - III

Discussion of the Results

Part - I

The objectives of the Two/ Three/ Four Wheeler Schemes are to provide assistance to the beneficiaries for retail marketing. The specific objectives of these schemes is to increase the domestic production of fish; to supply fish to consumers in hygienic and fresh condition; to ensure access of poor to nutritious food; and to provide higher returns to the fishers.

Scheme A : Assistance for Retail Fish Marketing by Supply of Three Wheelers

This scheme was given to 18 SC families in the study districts of SPS Nellore (13), Srikakulam (2) and East Godavari (3) spread over six Mandals viz., Venkatachalam, Bogolu, Manubolu, Rajam, Srikakulam and Koru Konda. The Sub-Caste-wise composition of the 18 families was as follows:13 Malas, 3 Madigas and 1 Paidi. The socio-economic profiles of the beneficiaries are presented in Table 5.

Table 5 : Socio-economic Profiles of Beneficiaries of Three Wheeler Scheme

Parameter	Mala	Madiga	<i>Paidi</i>
Average age (years)	40.3	40.0	33
Education of beneficiary (years of schooling)	9	10	10
Highest Education of Other Adults (years)	10	10	10
Family size	4	5	4
Average no.of workers	3	3	4
Selection by : Fishermen Cooperative Society	11	3	1
Unemployed Fisher	2	0	0
Fishing Type: Inland Fishing	3	2	1
Retail marketing	10	1	0

Source: Field Survey

Institutional Membership and Awareness:

All the beneficiaries of Madiga community had membership in fisheries institutions as well as non-fisheries institutions. However, only one Mala beneficiary was not having membership in these two types of institutions; however one of them held some position

in both the institutions. The association of Mala beneficiaries with Officials, Local Leaders and FCS might have benefitted them in having awareness about the state funded welfare schemes for SCs both in respect of eligibility criteria and procedures to be followed; exception being one Mala beneficiary who was ignorant of eligibility conditions. The Madigas were informed by the FCS and Friends and Relatives (F&R). The officials were the providers of information about the schemes to majority of the beneficiaries (54%) followed by FCSs (23%) and local leaders (23%). The officials helped 58 per cent of Mala while FCS enabled all the Madiga beneficiaries to get the scheme. The other Mala beneficiaries got the support of local leaders in accessing the scheme. All the beneficiaries could get the scheme of their choice. There was an average delay of three months in grounding the scheme and it was due to several factors including delay in processing of applications by the department and delays in organizing the JBMVC in finalizing the selection.

Transaction Costs:

The beneficiaries had incurred expenditure in the process of getting the scheme. These costs varied between Mala and Madiga beneficiaries and also for members within each group. The average cost towards board and lodging was Rs. 640 and for transport Rs. 318. The other costs (transaction costs) were substantial and average expenditure worked out to Rs. 27,000 for Mala beneficiaries and Rs.25,000 for Madiga community.

Management of the Scheme:

Most of the beneficiaries had the skills to operate the auto. The FCS members were suppliers of seed to 69 per cent of Mala beneficiaries and one - third of Madiga beneficiaries but the quantity was reported to be inadequate. The fish feed was not supplied. As far as information on some important aspects was concerned, the status is indicated in Table 6. The dependency on friends and relatives for information relating to market demand and prices was undesirable. The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications proposed in the state policy paper had not reached the beneficiaries despite the fact that most of them had mobiles.

Table 6: Information Inadequacies in Managing the Scheme (%)

Aspect	Caste	Sufficient	Inadequate	Not Provided	Source of Information
Seed	Mala	69	-	31	Officials, FCS
	Madiga	33	-	67	Officials
Feed	Mala	-	-	100	-
	Madiga	-	-	100	-
Market demand	Mala	53.8	23.1	23.1	Officials, FCS
	Madiga	-	66.7	33.3	F & R
Prices	Mala	100	-	-	F& R, FCS
	Madiga	100	-	-	F& R, FCS
Support services	Mala	-	31	69	F & R
	Madiga	-	33	67	F & R

Note: FCS: Fishery Cooperative Society; F&R: Friends and Relatives; *Source:* FieldSurvey

The beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction with the services of the Department of Fisheries (DoF). The beneficiaries depend upon different agencies for accessing information and also to deal with variety of problems in operating the schemes. The problems encountered by them are listed in Table 7. It is evident from the table that the beneficiaries did experience problems which were less severe in nature but the support from the department/officials was missing and measures should be taken to improve the situation. They had no serious problems with government agencies and banks.

Table 7: Problems Experienced and Support of Agencies in Managing the Asset/Scheme

Aspect	Caste	Occurrence (%)	Severity (%)	Support provided	Quality of Support (%)
Rawmaterial	Mala	Occ.53.8	Less severe	Local leaders	VGC
	Madiga	—	—	—	—
Service (repairs)	Mala	Occ.100	LS-100	Local leaders	VGC - 61.5;VGR-38.5
	Madiga	Occ.100	LS-100	Local leaders	VGC-33.3;VGR-66.7
Traders	Mala	Fr-8; Occ.23	LS	FCS	NG-100
	Madiga	Occ.33	LS	FCS	NG-100

*Note:*VGC: very good but costly; VGR:very good and reasonable; NG:not good; LS: less severe; VS: very severe; Fr: frequently; Occ.: occasionally

Source: Field Survey

They suggested some changes in features of the scheme and these are: hard plastic tank and cylinder to be given along with the three wheeler, further after the clearance of loan

they should be considered for the four wheeler scheme and pension for all fishermen above 50 years². Seven beneficiaries mentioned that they would not recommend the scheme for others since it would create more competition and reduce their earnings.

The scheme helped them in several ways and benefited them in higher income. The details are provided in Tables 8 and 9.

Table 8: Benefits Realized by Members Due to the Scheme: Number Reporting

Aspect	Good	Very good
Supply of Better fish seed	4	14
Timely delivery	2	16
Fish in Hygienic condition	2	16
Better price	2	16
High demand	1	17
More quantity	2	16
More income	3	15

Source: Field Survey

The family members were also helping them in marketing. On an average, every beneficiary was covering seven other fishers in terms of collecting the fish for marketing purpose. The minimum was three and maximum coverage was 15. It was reported that they were selling fish directly as well as to traders and processors. In the busy season all of them were marketing the fish in urban areas and in lean season it was confined to rural and urban markets. The lean months for their activity are mainly July, August and November and their earnings were low during these months.

Table 9: Average Income of the Beneficiaries in the Pre and Post Scheme Periods (in Rs.)

Details	Mala Beneficiaries		Madiga Beneficiaries	
	Before	After	Before	After
Household income	97,462	1,62,692	1,06,667	2,10,000
Income from fishing	25,385	98,077	7,333	1,11,667
Share of fishing activity in HHI (%)	26	60.3	6.87	53.17
Net benefit due to scheme	-	72,692	-	1,04,333
Capital Output Ratio	-	1:0.48	-	1:0.46
Poverty status (%)	53.8	23.1	66.7	33.3
Outstanding Debt*	NC	84,154	NC	43,333

HHI : household income; NC: not collected *as on the date of field survey; Source: Field Survey
² the state government has since taken an affirmative decision in this regard on "Fishers Day".

The importance of the scheme can be gauged by the increase of its share in household income. The capital output ratio suggests that beneficiaries were efficiently managing the asset. The other benefits realized were: transporting agricultural produce to market, bringing agricultural inputs from the market, transport of fuel, fodder and food and transport service during functions, rituals etc. They were also working as casual labour before the scheme was given but now they were earning more without much drudgery.

Suggestions made for better management

1. FCS Members are to be given livelihood support;
2. Loan amount to be enhanced;
3. Quality material and equipment be supplied;
4. Involvement of local leaders to be avoided;
5. Enroll all the eligible in to FCS; and
6. Officials to monitor the schemes regularly and provide guidance.

Scheme B : Supply of Two Wheelers (Moped) With Ice Box for Fish Vending and/ or Shrimp Seed Transport

This scheme benefits were given to 53 SC families in the study districts of Nellore (33) and Srikakulam (20) spread over eight Mandals viz., Hiramandalam, Jalumuru, Gara, Venkatachalam, Jaladanki, Bogolu, Kavali and Manubolu. The sub- caste wise composition of these beneficiary families is as follows: 42 Malas and 9 Madigas, 1 Paidi and 1 Relli. The socio-economic profiles of the Mala and Madiga beneficiaries are presented in Table 10.

Table10 : Socio-economic Profiles of Beneficiaries of the Three Wheeler Scheme

Parameter	Mala	Madiga
Average age (years)	42.4	45.8
Education (years of schooling)	7	4
Highest Education attained by other adults	10	9
Family size	5	5
Average Number of workers	3	3
Selection by: FCS	36	9
MMG	6	0
Fishing Activity Type: In land fishing	28	6
Retail marketing	14	3

Source: Field Survey; FCS: Fishery Cooperative Society; MMG: Matsya Mitra Group

Institutional Membership and Awareness:

All the beneficiaries had membership in fisheries institutions as well as non-fisheries institutions. However, only four Mala beneficiaries held some positions in non-fisheries institutions. These associations helped them in having awareness about the state sponsored welfare programmes for SCs both in respect of eligibility criteria and procedures to be followed. The Officials were the providers of information about the schemes to majority of the beneficiaries (60 per cent of Malas and 89 per cent of Madigas) followed by Local Leaders. The Officials helped 58 per cent of Mala and 89 per cent of Madiga beneficiaries. The rest got the support of local leaders in accessing the scheme. All the beneficiaries could get the scheme of their choice. There was an average delay of three months in grounding the scheme and it was due to several factors including delay in processing applications by the department and delays in organizing the JBMVC meeting to finalize the selection.

Transaction Costs:

The beneficiaries had incurred expenditure to obtain the scheme. On an average, the Mala members had to spend Rs.435 for board and lodging, Rs. 324 towards transport and Rs. 6344 for other expenses (beneficiaries mentioned it as processing costs). The corresponding figures for the beneficiaries from Madiga community were respectively Rs. 378, Rs. 233 and Rs. 3922 per beneficiary. The unit cost of the scheme was Rs.45,000. Thus, the transaction costs worked out to 15.8 per cent for Mala beneficiaries and it was about 10 per cent for the Madiga beneficiaries. It took about three months for distribution of the assets.

Management of the Scheme:

All the beneficiaries reported the possession of skills to manage the asset/scheme. However, the economics of the scheme was affected due to information inadequacies and problems of input supply as well quality of services. These details were furnished in Table 11. The information inadequacies were glaring and these had an impact on the decision making and also costs of production. Most of the beneficiaries were either satisfied or very much satisfied with the role played by the Fisheries Department (FD).

Table 11: Information Inadequacies in Managing the Scheme (%)

Aspect	Caste	Sufficient	Inadequate	Not Provided	Source of Information
Seed	Mala	28	37	35	Officials, FCS
	Madiga	33	22	44	Officials, FCS
Feed	Mala	12	0	88	Officials
	Madiga	11	0	89	Officials
Subsidies & Interest	Mala	48.8	51.2	0	FCS, Officials
	Madiga	22.2	77.8	0	FCS, Officials
Market Demand	Mala	72	28	0	F&R, FCS
	Madiga	22	78	0	FCS, F&R
Prices	Mala	86	0	0	Others, F&R
	Madiga	56	0	0	F&R, Others
Support Services	Mala	23	62	14	F&R, FCS
	Madiga	33	55	12	F&R, FCS

F&R: Friends and Relatives; FCS: Fishery Cooperative Society; *Source:* Field Survey

Problems were experienced by the beneficiaries in the management of the scheme and in particular service/repairs to the vehicle (see Table 12 for details). However, these were less severe and the local leaders were able to guide them. The opinions on the quality of support received varied and the official support would have reduced the service charges besides ensuring good quality service.

Table 12: Occurrence and Severity of Problems Encountered by the Beneficiaries

Aspect	Caste	Occurrence	Severity	Support Provided	Quality of Support
Raw Material	Mala	Never	-	-	-
	Madiga	Never	-	-	-
Service (repairs)	Mala	65	LS-90; VS-10	Local leaders	VGC-38; VGR-48; NG-13
	Madiga	67	LS-90; VS-50	Local leaders	VGC-50, VGR-50
Traders/Processors	Mala	9	LS	Local leaders	VGR-25, NG-75
	Madiga	11	LS	Local leaders	NG-100

Note: LS: less severe; VS: very severe; VGC: very good but costly; VGR: very good & reasonable cost; NG: not good; *Source:* Field Survey

The beneficiaries reported that they were also directly selling the fish in urban market besides the traders. On an average, each beneficiary could cater to the needs of 5.2 fishers (minimum - 2 and maximum 11) in marketing their produce. The earnings were lower in January, July, August and November.

A few suggestions were put forward for better management of the scheme and these are indicated below:

Support needed for better management of the scheme for all the beneficiaries include:

1. Loan amount to be increased and no delay in loan disbursement;
2. Quality material and equipment to be distributed;
3. No interference of local leaders;
4. Organize the beneficiaries and provide good schemes;
5. Seniority based selection; and
6. Enroll all eligible in to FCS.

The scheme enabled them to tap multiple benefits and the extent of benefit as perceived by them was indicated in Tables 13 and 14 which led to enhancement of their family income besides improving their social status and credit worthiness. They were able to get hassle free credit and were feeling financially secure. However, 11 members were unwilling to recommend the scheme to others as it would affect their market.

The decline in the share of income from fisheries had come down after getting the scheme. It was a disturbing out come.

Table 13: Benefits Realized by the Members due to the Scheme: Number Reporting

Benefits	Very Much	Very, Very Much
Supply of Better fish seed	8	45
Timely delivery	4	49
Fish in Hygienic condition	5	48
Better price	1	52
High demand	4	49
More quantity	4	49
More income	5	48

Source: Field Survey

Scheme C: Supply of Cycle with Fish Net

This scheme was given to 20 SC families in the study districts of Nellore (12), Srikakulam (2) and East Godavari (3) spread over three Mandals viz., Venkatachalam, Bogolu and Hiramandalam. The sub- caste wise composition of the 20 families was 7 Malas and 13 Madigas. The socio-economic profiles of the beneficiaries are presented in Table 15.

Table 14 : Average Income in the Pre and Post Scheme Periods (inRs.)

Details	Mala Beneficiaries		Madiga Beneficiaries	
	Before	After	Before	After
Household income	83,437	1,18,198	76,556	99,444
Income from fishing	38,799	49,093	35,889	40,222
Share of fishing activity in HHI	47.9	39.6	46.9	40.4
Net benefit due to scheme	-	9,294	-	4,333
Poverty status (%)	88.4	69.8	88.9	88.9
Out standing Debt*	-	48,837	-	57,778

*as on the date of survey; HHI : Household Income; Source: Field Survey

Table 15 : Socio-Economic Profiles of Beneficiaries of Three Wheeler Scheme

Parameter	Mala	Madiga
Average age (years)	38	38.8
Education of Beneficiary (mean years of schooling)	2	5
Highest Education attained by Other Adults	7	9
Family size	6	6
Average No. of Workers	4	3
Selection by:		
FCS	5	7
Licensed Holder	2	1
Unemployed Fisher	-	1
Others	-	4
Fishing Type		
Inland Fishing	5	6
Retail Marketing	2	7

Source: Field Survey

Almost all the Mala beneficiaries had membership in fisheries and non-fisheries institutions but only 8 out of 13 Madiga beneficiaries were members of fisheries institutions. This institutional association might be one of the factors responsible for their awareness of the fisheries scheme designed under SCC. The agencies which informed them about these schemes are officials and to some extent local leaders in the case of Madiga beneficiaries.

They spent Rs.220 towards board and lodging, and Rs. 137 towards transportation to and from the district office in order to avail of the scheme. Further, on average, Mala beneficiaries spent another Rs.1000 to pay officials for processing their applications; this was Rs.1354 in the case of Madiga beneficiaries. The scheme cost Rs. 10,000 and

the transaction costs worked out to 13 – 15 per cent. The beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the scheme and support provided by the Department of Fisheries. The average time taken for the release of the assets was about four months.

In the management of the scheme, they faced some problems such as information inadequacies on the supply of seed, feed, market demand and prices, and quality of repair services. This led to less satisfaction with the role played by officials and FCS.

Table 16 : Information Inadequacies in Managing the Scheme (%)

Aspect	Caste	Sufficient	Inadequate	Not Provided	Source of Information
Seed	Mala	-	-	100	-
	Madiga	-	-	100	-
Feed	Mala	-	-	100	-
	Madiga	-	-	100	-
Market demand	Mala	29	42	29	F&R
	Madiga	54		46	F&R
Prices	Mala	29	71	-	F&R
	Madiga	46	54	-	F&R
Support services	Mala	-	71.4	28.6	F&R, FCS
	Madiga	15.4	61.5	23.1	FCS, F&R

Note: FCS: Fishery Cooperative Society; F&R: friends and relatives; *Source*: Field Survey

The beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction with the services of the Department of Fisheries. In respect of problems encountered, repair services to two wheelers were highlighted. While these problems were less severe, the incidence was high. The details were shown in Table 17.

Table 17: Problems Experienced and Support of Agencies in Managing the Asset/Scheme

Support	Caste	Occurrence	Severity	Support Provided	Quality of Support
Raw Material	Mala	-	-	-	-
	Madiga	-	-	-	-
Service (repairs)	Mala	Occ.100	VS-14.3, LS- 85.7	FCS	VGR-100
	Madiga	Fr.-15.4, Occ.- 69.2	VS-18.2, LS- 81.6	FCS, LL	VGR-91, NG-9

Note: LS: less severe; VS: very severe; VGCR: very good but costly; VGR: very good and reasonable cost; NG: not good; Occ.: Occasional; Fr.: Frequent

Source: Field Survey

The beneficiaries, on the whole, were happy with the scheme since it enabled them to deliver fish to markets with demand in timely and hygienic condition resulting in higher price and higher income. The Tables 18 and 19 furnish these details. However, some of them suggested changes i.e. the features of the scheme such as ice box has to be included as one of the components of the scheme and inclusion of boat would be more beneficial. They wanted that nylon nets of 20 kg.weight and of better quality should be provided.

Table 18: Benefits Realized by the Members due to Scheme: Number Reporting

Benefits	No change	Good	Very Good
Supply of Better Fish Seed	16	-	4
Timely Delivery	-	15	5
Fish in Hygienic Condition	-	-	20
Better Price	-	15	5
High Demand	-	-	20
More Quantity	-	19	1
More Income	-	17	3

Source: Field Survey

Table 19 : Average Income of the Beneficiaries in the Pre and Post Scheme Periods (Rs.)

Details	Mala Beneficiaries		Madiga Beneficiaries	
	Before	After	Before	After
Household Annual Income	65,471	84,857	59,615	79,077
Income from Fishing	37,714	60,857	36,154	50,615
Share of Fishing Activity in HHI	57	71.7	60.6	64
Net Benefit Due to Scheme	-	23,143	-	14,461
Poverty – Before Scheme	7	7	13	11
Out standing Debt*	-	58,571	-	44,769

*as on the date of survey; HHI: Household Income

Source: Field Survey

Suggestions (Support) needed for better management of the scheme:

1. Awareness programmes on schemes, loans and marketing issues;
2. Training programmes have to be conducted on management of schemes with focus on marketing;
3. Provide 100 per cent subsidy to all SC beneficiaries;

4. Reduction of fee for processing application; and
5. No interference of local leaders in allotment of schemes.

Scheme D : Supply of Ice Boxes to Fishers

This scheme was given to 15 SC families in the study districts of Kurnool (2) and Srikakulam (13) spread over four Mandals of Hiramandalam, Jalamuru, Pagidyala and Pamulapadu. The sub-caste wise composition of the 15 families is 10 Malas and 5 Madigas. The socio-economic profiles of the beneficiaries are presented in Table 20.

Table 20: Socio-economic Profiles of Beneficiaries of Ice Box Scheme

Parameter	Mala	Madiga
Average age (years)	40.1	36.0
Education of beneficiary*	0	4
Education of other adults*	7	9
Family size	4	5
Average Number of workers	3	3
Selection by:		
FCS	3	0
Unemployed Fisher	2	0
MMG	5	0
LH	0	2
Others	0	3
Fishing Type: Inland Fishing	3	0
Retail Marketing	7	5

*mean years of schooling

FCS: Fishery Cooperative Society; MMG: Matsya Mitra Group; LH: License Holder

Source: Field Survey

The small family size, low dependency ratio and more number of years of schooling were some of the favourable indicators. Most of the beneficiaries were engaged in retail marketing.

All the Mala beneficiaries were members of fisheries and non-fisheries institutions. The situation with Madiga beneficiaries was different with only members participating in fisheries institutions. The Local Leaders followed by Officials were the agencies providing information about the state welfare schemes. However, 8 out of 10 Mala beneficiaries were not aware of eligibility criteria for accessing the schemes. While officials helped

the Mala aspirants mostly in getting the scheme, the local leaders played a major role in the case of Madigas.

There was an average delay of 4.7 months (with a range of 1-7 months) in availing scheme benefits. The beneficiaries got the scheme of their choice and most of them were familiar with the asset.

While the unit cost was Rs.5,400, the Mala and Madiga beneficiaries incurred transaction cost of Rs. 1393 and Rs. 1210 respectively. The latter worked out to 25.8 and 22.4 per cent of the unit cost; which is very high by any standard.

In the use of the Ice Box and carrying out the fishing and marketing activities the beneficiaries didn't get much support in terms of supply of quality seed and feed from the officials. The information on market demand and prices was mostly inadequate and was also provided by less reliable source i.e. friends and relatives. With traders, they experienced some problems of minor nature.

The beneficiaries wanted support on several counts which include: reduction in processing cost, non-involvement of local leaders in selection process, preference for seniority, curtailing of malpractices in selection of beneficiaries and enhancement of the financial assistance.

They also desired changes in the features of the scheme such as unit should consist of boat, net, ice box and cycle. They also insisted on supply of nylon nets.

The scheme helped in preserving fish in fresh and hygienic condition and thereby better price. During the lean months i.e., July, August and November, the fishers wanted some financial support to overcome the fall in earnings.

Benefits realized on account of the scheme are listed in Table 21. As a result, the poverty had fallen by 10 per cent age points and 87 per cent of the beneficiaries felt that they were financially secure and 94 per cent were confident of getting credit without much problem.

Table 21 : Average Income in the Pre and Post Scheme Periods (in Rs.)

Source/Details	Mala Beneficiaries		Madiga Beneficiaries	
	Before	After	Before	After
Household income	70,300	81,000	60,600	71,000
Income from fishing	34,600	42100	34,000	38,600
Share of fishing activity in HHI	49.2	52.0	56.1	54.4
Net benefit due to scheme	-	7500	-	4,600
Poverty status	80	70	100	100
Outstanding debt	-	31,500	-	36,300

Source: Field Survey; HHI: Household Income

Scheme E: Supply of Fish Nets

This scheme was given to 37 SC families in the study districts of East Godavari (16) and Kurnool (21) spread over Korukonda, Rajanagaram, Kothapalli and Pamulapadu Mandals. The sub-caste wise composition of the 37 families was 29 Malas and 8 Madigas. The socio-economic profiles of the beneficiaries were presented in Table 22.

Table 22 : Socio-economic Profiles of Beneficiaries of Three Wheeler Scheme

Parameter	Mala	Madiga
Average age (years)	41.3	39.5
Education of beneficiary*	4	8
Education of other adults*	7	11
Family size	5	7
Average Number of workers	3	4
Selection by: FCS	10	8
License Holder	11	8
Fishing Type: Inland Fishing	6	6
Retail Marketing	15	10

* mean years of schooling; FCS: Fishery Cooperative Society; Source: Field Survey

Institutional Membership:

All the Mala beneficiaries had membership in fisheries and non-fisheries institutions where as such institutional participation was less among Madiga beneficiaries; 4 of them did not have membership in non-fisheries institutions. None had any leadership position in any institution.

All the members knew the state supported schemes launched under SCC for the benefit of SCs. However, about 50 per cent of them were not aware of eligibility conditions and 50 - 65 per cent didn't know the procedures for accessing the schemes. The Local Leaders and Officials lent their support in getting the Schemes. All the *Madiga* beneficiaries got the scheme of their choice and were happy that they could get the scheme. They incurred expenditure for visiting the district head quarters and the average cost was Rs.320 towards board and lodging and Rs. 190 for transport expenses. They also spent about Rs.1000 towards processing cost which was about 15 per cent of the unit cost of Rs. 10,000. It took, on an average, three months for the unit to be delivered to them and the delay was on account of processing time taken by the officials, getting time of Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and time taken for fixing JBMVC meeting.

Table 23: Information Inadequacies Experienced by Beneficiaries

Information	Caste	Sufficient	Inadequate	Not Provided	Source of Information
Seed	Mala	17	3	80	Officials, Others
	Madiga	12.5	12.5	75	Officials, Others
Feed	Mala	3	3	94	Officials, Others
	Madiga	-	-	100	Officials, Others
Subsidies & Interest	Mala	79.3	20.7	-	Officials, F&R
	Madiga	87.5	12.5	-	Officials, F&R
Market Demand	Mala	51.7	48.3	-	F&R, Others
	Madiga	62.5	37.5	-	F&R, Others
Prices	Mala	52	48	-	F&R, Others
	Madiga	62	38	-	F&R, Others
Support Services	Mala	14	72	14	F&R
	Madiga	38	62	-	F&R

Note: F&R: Friends and Relatives; *Source*: Field Survey

In the management of the scheme i.e. fishing and marketing, availability of timely and reliable information is crucial. Being poor, most of them had to depend upon local leaders, friends & relatives and others and as a result, their earnings were affected to some extent. The details in regard to information inadequacies and problems in the activity management were presented in Tables 23 and 24. It is very clear that information was not provided to many beneficiaries and where provided the completeness and

reliability of such information was moot questions. For resolving the problems also, the beneficiaries were largely guided by the non- professionals and in some cases they were either not satisfied with the quality of service or paid more amount.

Table 24: Problems encountered in the Management of the Scheme (%)

Problem	Caste	Occurrence	Severity	Support Provided	Quality of Support
Raw material	Mala	Never	-	Local Leaders	VGC
	Madiga	Never	-	Local Leaders (63%)	VGC
Service (repairs)	Mala	Occ-10; Never-90	LS-100	Local Leaders	VGC-73; NG-27
	Madiga	Never	-	Officials-63; Local Leaders-37	VGC; VGR
Traders/ Processors	Mala	Never	-	Local leaders, SHG	VGR-35, NG-65
	Madiga	11	LS	—do—	VGR-62; NG-38

Note: Occ: Occasionally; LS: less severe; SHG: Self-Help Group; VGC: very good but costly; VGR: very good and reasonable; NG: not good

Source: Field Survey

The fish nets helped these poor fishers in catching more fish and the marketing activity was largely confined to rural areas only. In a few cases, the supply of fish nets led to partial substitution of earlier activities. The social benefits were gain in (a bit more) respect in the society followed by elimination of waiting time to receive net from others. The economic benefits besides increase in household income, the savings in hiring net from others (share in the catch), shift from casual agricultural work to self-employed for one or two family members and improved access to credit. Though household income increased for Malas after the distribution of nets, due to the large family size all of them remained in poverty. The lean months for fishing were July and August and more support was needed from the state during this period.

Table 25: Benefits Realized by the Members due to the Scheme: Number Reporting

Benefits	No Change	Good	Very Good
Supply of Better Fish Seed	23	4	10
Timely Delivery	-	15	22
Fish in Hygienic Condition	-	3	29
Better Price	-	15	22
High Demand	-	15	22
More Quantity	-	19	18
More Income	-	35	2

Source: Field Survey

Table 26: Average Income in the Pre and Post Scheme Periods (in Rs.)

Source	Mala Beneficiaries		Madiga Beneficiaries	
	Before	After	Before	After
Household Income	68,138	89,655	76,425	97,625
Income from Fishing	40,866	49,566	40,250	47,275
Share of Fishing activity in HHI	60	55.3	52.7	48.4
Net Benefit due to Scheme	-	8700	-	7025
Poverty Status	-	-	-	-
Outstanding Debt*	-	-	-	-

*as on the date of field survey

HHI: Household Income

Source: Field Survey

Following suggestions were made by the beneficiaries for better management of asset and for improved livelihoods:

1. More awareness camps on schemes and loan facilities;
2. Training on modern methods of fishing;
3. Provide 100 per cent subsidy to all SC beneficiaries;
4. Reduction in processing fee;
5. Curbing malpractices in selection; and
6. Coverage of all eligible SC fishers and priority for seniors.

Some Cases

Part – II

In this section, the six schemes for SC fishers with small samples are analyzed and discussed as cases; a few of them are success cases. These are documented/summarized in brief separately but lessons learnt from these cases are highlighted in this section.

Scheme F: Assistance for Retail Fish Marketing by Supply of Four-Wheelers with Ice Boxes

The Four-wheeler scheme was implemented during 2016-17 in Srikakulam among the four sample districts and the scheme was awarded to six SC fishermen—3 Mala and 3 Madiga beneficiaries, in the Mandals of Srikakulam, Jalumuru and Gara. Four of them were members of Fishermen Cooperative Society, one from MMG and other was Unemployed Fisher. The parents of these beneficiaries were illiterates and two of them were fishers. All the beneficiaries are literates and the mean years of schooling varied between 10 and 15 years. The average age of the beneficiary was 36.5 years. These were dealing with retail marketing of inland fish including prawns. Their main occupation was fishing but for one prior to getting the scheme. The household size varied from 3 to 7 and the number of workers was two in four households and three in other two households. All the children of these families were attending school. The spouses of the beneficiaries were participating in labour market while only one was engaged in fishing activity.

All of them had membership in SHGs and fishery institutions (FCSs and MMGs). The five beneficiaries who were members of either the FCS or MMG informed that these agencies had leased in tank for three years with formal agreements in 2017.

All the beneficiaries were aware of state schemes launched for betterment of SC fishermen and their information sources were officials and local leaders (50:50). These agencies had adequately informed the eligibility conditions for accessing the schemes as well as the procedures to be followed for getting the scheme. The local leaders helped four of them and the other two were helped by officials to get the scheme of their choice. All of them incurred expenditure to get the scheme. The transaction costs incurred by all of

them, on an average, were: board and lodging (Rs. 383), transport (Rs.400) and others (Rs.75,000).The expenditure on the third component (reported by beneficiaries as processing cost varied between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 100,000. It is imperative that transaction costs were very high and need to be reduced to minimum and more so the third component. The main reason for high transaction cost might be due to the rent seeking behavior of the delivery system including the political leaders.

The scheme cost was about Rs.4.4 lakh and the beneficiaries contributed 10 per cent of the scheme cost (Rs. 0.44 lakh) and Rs. 500 towards DD charges made along with the application. The self-contribution was met by borrowing from non-institutional sources in the case of five beneficiaries while the sixth one met this amount from his own resources. The scheme outlay was found to be sufficient for five of them and an enhancement of outlay by Rs. 5,000 was suggested by the sixth beneficiary. There were delays of 3 to 5 months in grounding of the scheme and the average delay was 4.1 months. The reasons for delay in grounding the scheme were: getting time of MLA/concerned or in charge Minister for distribution of the assets (6), processing time by Department of Fisheries (4), interference of local leaders (3) and approval of the beneficiary list by JBMVC.

There was unmet demand for this 4-wheelers scheme since many who were desirous of the scheme were denied. The beneficiaries were selected from among the members of FCS/ MMGs. The beneficiaries reported that they have required skills to manage the scheme. For them, source of information was mainly officials followed by FCS and occasionally local leaders help in regard to key inputs and the details were as follows.

The beneficiaries had inadequate information regarding seed and feed. They had knowledge about the subsidies and interest rate as well as market demand and to a large extent on prices and support services. However, the information providers were friends and relatives followed by FCS. The dependency on the former on crucial information should be avoided. As far as services (repairs) and interactions with traders, half of them reported occurrence of problems though of less severe in nature. To resolve these problems they sought the help of FCS members and private agencies. They had rated the services of the Department of Fisheries as satisfactory.

The four wheeler helped them in transporting the fish to market in time and also in fresh and hygienic condition which facilitated in getting better price and also enhanced demand for the product. On an average, number of fishers served by the vehicle was 13.8. The local fishers had more choice in selling to trader or processor or direct sale. In

busy season, the local fishers were taking their product to urban market mainly while in lean season they were transacting in both rural and urban markets. The outcomes were encouraging and the same is shown in Table 27. The fact that the scheme was given to relatively better off among SCs, the resource use efficiency was also high. Their socio-economic status had gone up and they felt financially secure and were in a position to get hassle free loans.

Table 27: Beneficiaries Average Income in the Pre and Post Scheme Periods (Rs.)

Source/Details	Beneficiaries	
	Before	After
Household Income	1,78,333	2,56,667
Income from Fishing	1,08,333	1,75,833
Share of Fishing activity in HHI	60.7	68.5
Net Benefit due to Scheme	-	67,500
Poverty Status	NP	NP
Outstanding Debt	-	1,00,000

Note: NP: Non Poor; HHI: Household Income; *Source*: Field Survey

The beneficiaries suggested a few improvements for better and efficient management of the scheme and these are:

1. Reduction in processing cost;
2. Distribution of assets without delay;
3. Organize the aspirants of the schemes into groups and provide good support;
4. Provision of 100 per cent subsidy; and
5. Un-employed youth from fishermen community shall be given stalls in the markets and facilities are to be provided for marketing by the Department of Fisheries.

Scheme G: Supply of Fiber Reinforced Plastic Boat (FRPB) with Net Scheme

Mr. Bandaru Nageshulu aged 41 years is a fisherman in village P K Pragatoor of Nehru Nagar Gram Panchayat (GP) in Pagidyala Mandal in Kurnool. His parents were illiterates and belonged to Mala community. He studied up to fifth class while his wife completed tenth class. He joined SHG in 1990. He has been fishing in *Tunga Bhadra* River as License Holder and involved in retail fishing. His family size is three. He is aware of the state sponsored fisheries scheme for SC fishermen. While he knew the procedures to access them, he is ignorant about the eligibility conditions. He got the "FRPB and Net"

scheme with the help of local leaders in 2016-17. He preferred this scheme but was not interested to receive the Ice Box. It took two months for obtaining the scheme and in this period, he incurred an amount of Rs. 1000 (transport: Rs.300, board and lodging: Rs. 500 and other costs: Rs. 200). The total cost of the scheme was Rs. 10,000 with 90 per cent subsidy. Mr. Nageshulu incurred a total amount of Rs. 2025 (Rs. 1000 self-contribution + transaction cost Rs. 1000 + DD charges: Rs. 25) and this he could raise from his own resources. The two months' time in grounding the scheme was on account of delay in organizing JBMVC and getting the time of chief guests (MLA and Others).

He has the required skills to manage the scheme and his wife lent support in the management of this scheme involving fish catch and marketing of inland fish. As far as information flows on market demand and prices of fishes in different markets were concerned, he was heavily dependent on friends and relatives but he felt the supply of information was inadequate. He was satisfied with the support received. Whenever repairs occurred occasionally for the net and boat, the friends and relatives were providing good service at reasonable cost. For better management of the scheme, Mr. Nageshulu suggested that conduct of awareness camp on institutional loans would be useful. He was of the view that the quality assets need to be provided to make the scheme effective.

The scheme helped him in catching more fish. For instance, the catch increased by about 20 quintals in busy season. He reported earnings of about Rs. 50,000 per annum from the scheme during 2017 which accounted for one third of his household income. Prior to getting the scheme, he was earning Rs. 75,000 from various sources and from fishing nearly Rs. 25,000. The scheme was not substituting any of the activities pursued by the members of the household. The income flows were uneven and during July and August, the returns from the scheme were low. He sold the produce to the processor. The importance of fishing activity to his family could be judged by the fact, income from fisheries activity accounted for one-fourth of household income before the boat was given but after the scheme it had gone up to one-third of the household income. Thus, the net income gain due to the FRPB was Rs.25,000. The economic gains due to the scheme include more fish catch, higher income and availability of loans within the village. Some of the social benefits realized through the scheme are: improvement in social status and could save time (fish catch) compared to the past.

Mr. Nageshulu suggested that the state should initiate measures for improving the livelihoods of fishers such as provisions of nets of good quality every year, extending

health and life insurance coverage to all SC fishers, special training on the use of assets, creation/strengthening of marketing facilities, minimizing the role of middlemen and political interference.

Scheme H: Supply of Net, Coracle and Ice Box to License Holders of Kurnool

The scheme was given to three fishermen, Sri. Kommu Raju, Sri. Katam Venkata Ramana and R. Eeswaraiah who belongs to Madiga community in P. Mutchhu Marri village in Pagidyala Mandal of Kurnool in January 2017. All these were catching fish (retail fishing) in the back waters of Srisailam as license holders. Their wives joined as members of local SHGs at different points of time. Sri Ramana was only educated and studied up to graduation. The wives of Sri. Ramana and Eeswaraiah were also in the fishing occupation but that of Sri. Raju was a casual worker. The highest education attained by some of the members of these households was tenth class or graduation. The average family size was high (7) and the number of workers per family was 3.7; the latter is an advantage to earn more.

All the three were members of fishery (License Holders) and non-fishery institutions (members of SHGs) and this helped them in having more knowledge of the state schemes. All of them are aware of the state sponsored schemes designed by the Social Welfare Department for the benefit of SC fishers and the procedures to be followed for accessing the schemes through the officials. They were not very clear about the eligibility criteria for seeking the benefits. The scheme given to them was of their choice. They had informed that the scheme would be given to members of FCSs or License Holders only. The transaction cost with marginal variations worked to Rs. 1900 to Rs. 2000 and major expenditure was on cost towards processing of application. The unit cost of the scheme was Rs.20,000 and self-contribution was Rs.2025. They felt that the sanctioned money was sufficient. The waiting time was three months and it was due to delay in fixing the time for JBMVC meeting and participation of local political leaders in the distribution of the schemes.

The information inadequacies were strikingly high in respect of seed and feed availability, quality and price as well as support facilities. The market information i.e. both demand for and prices of fish on daily basis were lacking and they consulted friend and relatives on these aspects. They were not satisfied with the role played by the Department of Fisheries. They were mainly selling the fish to the traders and didn't experience any serious problem. But the price offered was low. To get the repairs done to the net or coracle, they encountered a few problems of minor nature but could tackle them with the help of friends and relatives.

The scheme was a supplement partially to the household income and the details can be gleaned from the table below:

Table 28: Household Income Particulars in the Pre and Post Scheme Periods (in Rs.)

Details	Before	After
Household Income per year	81,667	1,06,330
Income from Fishing	39,000	48,300
Share of fishing activity in HHI (%)	47.7	45.4
Income loss due to substitution	-	4,000
Net benefit due to Scheme	-	5,300
Poverty– after the Scheme	-	-
Outstanding Debt*	-	1,90,000

*as on the date of field survey

Source: Field Survey

HHI: Household Income

Suggestion made by the beneficiaries include:

1. 100 per cent subsidy;
2. No malpractices in selection of beneficiaries;
3. Seniority of beneficiary should be given weight; and
4. Processing cost to be reduced

The changes in the design of the scheme were mainly provision of nylon net, boat, ice box and two wheeler and establishment of fish ponds for breeding of fingerlings.

Scheme I : Supply of Reefer Van

In the study area, reefer van was given in 2017 to Sri Gora Suresh, Madiga community from Chintuvalasa village in Gara Mandal of Srikakulam district. He was 49 years old and has been a member of SC FCS since 2002. He has a large family (8) with the dependency ratio of 1:1. Though a son of illiterate parents, he had 15 years of education. His wife studied up to 12th class and was helping in collection, grading and retail marketing of fish. He was working as a driver also to augment the family income prior to the distribution of the scheme. His wife is a leader of SHG and he is also aware of the welfare schemes for SCs taken up under SCC. He got a scheme of his choice with the help of Officials.

His contacts and his long association helped him to get scheme with high unit cost. The cost of the scheme was Rs.15.4 lakh and met his contribution of Rs.1.55 lakh by taking loan from the bank. He also incurred an expenditure of Rs.2.04 lakh as transaction cost. He was given orientation training by the officials which is found to be very useful. While information on technical aspects has been sufficient, information inadequacies were found in regard to market demand and prices as he was dependent on friends and relatives. In the management of scheme, he encountered problems in getting repair services though these are of less severe in nature. He received support from private agencies which he rated as good and reasonably priced. He has no problems from traders but is unhappy over the attitude of banker in providing credit services.

On the whole, he is happy with the scheme and it helped him in timely delivery of fish and prawns in hygienic conditions to urban markets and thereby fetched a better price. Before getting the scheme, he used to wait for longer hours for hired three wheeler to take the fish to the market and this delay affected the quality (freshness and hygiene) denying him good price. He was no more dependent on the middlemen. The household income was about Rs.2.5 lakh and income from fishing was about one lakh rupees in the pre-scheme phase. The share of the fishing activity in the household income was 40 per cent. After getting the reefer van, the family was earning Rs.2.5 lakh from the scheme itself and also by using the van for non- fishery activities. The income derived from the reefer van worked out to 71 per cent of the total income of the family. This was indication of resource use efficiency. He was catering to the needs of 20 fishers and was selling fish in urban markets and mostly through direct sales. The outstanding debt of Rs. 1.8 lakh was manageable since the household annual income was about Rs. 3.5 lakh. His credit worthiness had improved and his family is enjoying a better social status. He is investing more in children's education. He is thus financially secure.

He is not willing to recommend the scheme for others since it would affect his earnings and livelihood opportunities. He is of the opinion that if more fishers were given the scheme, political interference might be more.

Scheme J : Supply of Seed Transport Vehicle

The above scheme was given to two members of FCSs in Gara and Srikakulam Mandals of Srikakulam district in 2016-17. Smt. Kantipapa Bhagyalakshmi, 45 years is from Madiga community and Sri Lingala Sriramulu, 50 years belonged to Mala community; both were members of FCS for almost 16 years and were engaged in inland fishing as

well as retail marketing. Smt. Bhagyalakshmi has a large family (6) while the family size of Sriramulu is small (4) but all of them are engaged in labour market. The FCSs have taken tanks on lease for three years. The two members are aware of the state sponsored schemes for SCs and with the help of Officials and Local Leaders could get the Seed Transport Van. But they incurred an expenditure of over Rs. 2 lakh for getting the scheme. They were given training for managing the asset which was rated to be very useful.

They are receiving adequate information on technical aspects, seed and feed, subsidies and interest, market demand and prices mainly from Officials and FCS and to some extent from friends and relatives. This support enabled them to manage the asset well. They are very much satisfied with the guidance from the Department of Fisheries. They experienced minor problems in regard to raw material supply. The small repairs for the van are occurring occasionally and the quality of service from private agencies was good but were charging high price.

The seed transport van is used to supply quality seed to the FCSs tanks and also reduced the dependency of the local fishers on the middlemen. As a result, they are benefitted in multiple ways and their income increased substantially. The income gains of the van owners are indicated below:

Table 29: Household Income Particulars in the Pre and Post Scheme Periods (in Rs.)

Details	Bhagyalakshmi		Sriramulu	
	Before	After	Before	After
Annual Household Income	2,00,000	3,50,000	2,00,000	3,50,000
Income From Fishing/Scheme	1,50,000	3,00,000	1,00,000	1,50,000
Share of Fishing Activity in HHI (%)	75.0	87.5	50.0	42.8
Net Benefit due to Scheme	-	1,50,000	-	50,000
Poverty- before Scheme	LNP	NP	NP	NP
Outstanding Debt*	-	2,00,000	-	5,00,000

LNP: Lower Non Poor; NP: Non Poor; HHI: Household Income

* as on the date of field survey; *Source:* Field Survey

Scheme K : Supply of Ice Boxes and Nets

This scheme was implemented in Pagidyala and Pamulapadu Mandals of Kurnool district in 2016-17 was given four License Holders who belong to Mala (2) and Madiga (2) community. All of them were members of FCS and were engaged in retail fishing. All the adult members of these families were involved in fish collection and marketing.

The mean year of schooling was 5.5 years. The family size is large (6.7) and number of workers per family is 3.2. The highest education level attained varied from 6 to 15 years. While Madigas have been associated with FCS since 1990, Mala beneficiaries joined in 2005 and 2010. As there were more aspirants, full scheme was not given. And the Officials helped them in getting the scheme.

All the four were members of fisheries as well as non-fisheries institutions and they were aware of the state schemes and the procedures to be followed for availing the scheme. With the help of officials, all of them got the scheme. The unit cost was about Rs. 16,000 and the transaction cost was about Rs. 1575 which worked out to about 10 per cent of the former. Except one person, the members had the skill to manage the scheme.

The beneficiaries were not provided fingerlings and feed but the friends and relatives were the main sources of information on market demand and prices. The beneficiaries had no problem with traders but price offered by trader was low. The net helped them in catching more quantity of fish and ice box could preserve the fish in fresh and hygienic condition. These fetched higher price and more income. The income earnings from fishing were low during July and August.

The average household income was Rs. 88,750 in the pre-scheme period and of which the income from fishing was Rs. 36,000. After receiving net with ice box, the household income increased to Rs.97,500 while scheme income was about of Rs.47,500. The share of income from fishing activity rose from 40.6 to 48.7 per cent. The net income was about Rs. 11,500.

Section - IV

Functioning of Fishermen Co-operative Societies (FCS) in Andhra Pradesh

The number of Fishermen Co-operative Societies (FCS) was 1762 in the state in 2014 and Inland FCSs were 1326 with a membership of 1.3 lakh. The number of FCSs in the state have gone up to 2328 with a membership of 2.6 lakh fishers as on September 2017 and of which 1401 (60.2 per cent) are Inland FCSs. The share of the inland FCSs in the membership is 51.5. Two-thirds of the Inland FCSs are in East and West Godavari, Krishna, Nellore and Ananthapur districts with a share of about 71.3 per cent in the membership. The share capital of Inland FCSs is Rs.80.13 lakh and the average share capital per Inland FCS is Rs. 5719. The Table 30 contains the details of FCSs in 2017.

A sample of 8 Inland Scheduled Caste FCSs was taken for a detailed study and some details are included in Table 31.

These FCSs have taken 49 tanks on lease and the area of these tanks is about 3634.5 acres. The Brahmanakaka FCS has three large tanks with average size of 533 acres and on the other extreme; the Venkatapuram FCSs has 11 tanks with average size of 5.4 acres. Out of eight, Veeranna Kanupuru FCS has members from ST community. The GB comprises of all the members. The President and Secretary of the board are nominated with an exception of Kadanuthala FCS where the president was elected twice and nominated twice. The tenure of the board is for five years. The size of FCS and Board Members are presented in Table 32.

The Board meetings were held a bit irregularly but members were keen to conduct them regularly. The GB meets once in six months but a few FCSs conduct the meetings either once in three months or as and when required. Training to Board Members on regular basis was reported in *Nidigatla Matchya Sahakara Sangham Ltd.* The themes covered are Flood Management, Tank Development, Tank Security, Book Keeping, Accountancy and Auditing. It was held at Fisheries Training Centre at Kakinada. The members found it “just useful”. They suggested that there is a need to conduct either regular training programmes or exposure visits to the EC/GB members on Best Management Practices on fish production, management and retail marketing issues.

Table 30: District/Type-wise FCSs in Andhra Pradesh (as on 01.09.2017)

Sl. No.	District	Inland FCS			Marine FCS			Brackish Water FCS			Women FCS			Total FCS		
		No. of Socs.	No. of Mem bers	Share Capital (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Socs	No. of Mem bers	Share Capital (Rs in Lakhs)	No. of Socs	No. of Mem bers	Share Capital (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Socs	No. of Mem bers	Share Capital (Rs. in Lakhs)	Total No. of Socs.	Total No. of Mem bers	Share Capital (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Srikakulam	81	7193	7.91	66	16131	17.74	0	0	0	11	788	0.87	158	24112	26.52
2	Vizianagaram	57	5477	1.25	13	621	0.2	0	0	0	10	651	0.51	80	6749	1.96
3	Visakhapatnam	30	2319	3.67	70	10823	17.32	0	0	0	34	3634	5.81	133	16746	26.8
4	East Godavari	270	27884	12.32	85	14946	8.22	0	0	0	137	7133	3.89	492	49963	24.43
5	West Godavari	219	22898	12.59	18	1773	0.98	3	237	0.02	39	3615	1.99	279	28523	15.58
6	Krishna	228	20855	8.83	45	10024	2.68	6	821	1.12	86	9414	5.64	364	41074	18.24
7	Guntur	88	9556	8.87	28	8591	3.14	0	0	0	33	2298	1.73	149	20445	13.74
8	Prakasam	55	5374	5.71	44	10967	5.9	0	0	0	30	1948	0.83	129	18289	12.44
9	SPS Nellore	118	17503	8.75	58	11603	5.81	0	0	0	77	7760	4.05	252	36790	18.56
10	Ananthapur	92	6476	3.24	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1173	0.5	103	7595	3.27
11	Chittoor	44	2342	0.31	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	327	0.15	57	2669	0.46
12	Kurnool	84	4632	6.11	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	459	0.24	93	5091	6.35
13	Kadapa	35	1562	0.57	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	202	0.02	39	1764	0.62
	Andhra Pradesh	1401	134071	80.13	427	85479	61.99	9	1058	1.14	500	39402	26.23	2328	259810	168.97

Source: GoAP, Co-Operation Department

FCS: Fisheries Cooperative Society; Socs.: Societies

Table 31: Names, Location, Year of Establishment and Villages Covered by Sample FCSs

Sl. No.	Name of the Society	Village	Mandal	District	Year of Estd.	No. of Villages Covered
1	Jai Bheema Swadesa Matchya Sakha Society	Vamaravelli	Gara	Srikakulam	2016	5
2	Mahatma Gandhi FCS Ltd.,	Dosakayalapalli	Korukonda	East Godavari	1972	1
3	Nidigatla Matchya Sahakara Sangham Ltd.,	Nidigatla	Korukonda	East Godavari	1984	5
4	, Nandarada FCS Ltd.	Nandarada	Rajanagaram	East Godavari	1978	1
5	Venkatapuram FCS Ltd.	Venkatapuram	Rajanagaram	East Godavari	1985	1
6	Veeranna Kanupuru FCS	Kanupuru	Venkatachalam	SPS Nellore	1979	1
7	Kadanuthala FCS	Kadanuthala	Bogolu	SPS Nellore	1984	1
8	Brahmanakaka FCS	Brahmanakaka	Jaladanki	SPS Nellore	1975	1

Source: FCSs Records

Table 32: Size and Composition of FCS and Board Members

Sl. No.	Name of the Society	GB Members		Board Members		Remarks
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
1	Jai Bheema Swadesa Matchya Sakha Society	37	0	9	0	-
2	Mahatma Gandhi FCS Ltd.,	119	1	9	0	-
3	Nidigatla Matchya Sahakara Sangham Ltd.,	89	60	9	0	-
4	Nandarada FCS Ltd.	118	0	9	0	-
5	Venkatapuram FCS Ltd.	109	3	9	0	-
6	Veeranna Kanupuru FCS	140+63*	40+10*	9	0	*STs
7	Kadanuthala FCS	18	14	8	1	-
8	Brahmanakaka FCS	340	200	9	0	-

Source: Field Survey (PRA/FGD methods)

FCS: Fisheries Cooperative Society; Ltd. Limited; STs: Scheduled Tribes; GB: General Body
*FCSs Records

Some FCS, as a part of the agenda, have been discussing on the status of various schemes under implementation but this has to be done more systematically by all the FCS. They are also announcing individual schemes based on the JBMVC decisions in the *Grama Sabha* (GS) meetings. The FCS - Management Committee (MC) role is confined to mere applying for the group Schemes/ Programmes but sanctioning authority lies with the FD. But in practice, the JBMVC is the final authority. The members are not happy with the involvement of JBMVC to this extent since it has been consuming more time and sometimes biased but at the same time they welcomed the Gram Panchayat GS involvement.

The FCS enrolls the members based on submission of application, with membership fee of Rs.55 (Rs.50 towards Share Capital and Rs. 5 for Admission Fee) and after clearance by Skill Test Committee. There is also another restriction to enroll any fisher as a member in to FCS i.e. on the basis of extent of area of the allotted Tank in the village concerned- one Hectare- one person norm. Some persons were admitted on compensatory grounds (death of the father/husband). There are 140 eligible non-members who wanted to join in Kadanuthala FCS. All these are involved in fishing and retail fishing activities in and around villages/towns.

The members get several benefits such as individual schemes sponsored by National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), SCC and *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* (RKVY) and sharing of benefits from fishing related works and activities for four months i.e February to May. Each member gets during fishing time 1 or 2 Kgs of Fish and dividend from the profits. For instance, during 2015-16 each of the 148 members of *Matchya Sahakara Sangham Ltd.*, was offered a dividend of Rs. 500 per member from its profit. The Kadanuthala FCS has distributed Rs. 2,500 each to its members as dividend.

The FCS members felt that there is a need to form and promote more MMGs with financial support for undertaking Income Generating Activities (IGAs: processing for value addition related activities) since the present number is inadequate. *The Matchya Sahakara Sangham Ltd.*, has 18 SHGs while *Jai Bheema Swadesa Matchya Sakha Society* is not having even one. All the SHGs are directly and indirectly associated in Fishing based livelihood activities. Hence, they can be converted in to MMGs and be provided by the Department officials the Revolving Fund (RF) for promoting IGAs and smooth running of SHGs/ MMGs. There is a need for training these women on retail marketing and food processing for value addition. The FCSs distribute the welfare schemes on behalf of the Fisheries Department and monitor the progress of fisheries schemes given to SC and ST fishers. They help in resolving the problems encountered by the beneficiaries by discussing them in the monthly and GB meetings.

No conflicts among members of FCS were reported but during selection of beneficiaries there were pressures. The role of FCS is advisory and the JBMVC is the main decision maker. Selection of beneficiaries for schemes with high unit cost such as 4 and 3 wheelers is a complex one since the excluded express their dissatisfaction. The FCSs want the beneficiary selection should be done by FCS MC and Fisheries Department and feel that the JBMVC involvement should be curtailed in this process.

The women of FCS members who are members of SHGs can be encouraged to form MMGs so that they can access RF. They should be trained on grading and processing and also on retail marketing practices.

All these FCSs have been distributing fish seed to their members which they receive under Mission Fingerlings. Most of the FCSs have been collecting and distributing seed and feed to the members and also undertaking extension works for development of fish. The FCSs have been taking tanks lease for 3 years. The FCSs have been facilitating the

Table 33: Services Provided by Different FCSs

Benefit	FCS-1	FCS-2	FCS-3	FCS-4	FCS-5	FCS-6	FCS-7	FCS-8
Group Schemes								
Comm.Nets	Y							
Fish Seed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Comm. Hall								
Lease in of Ponds		Y-1	Y-2	Y-2	Y-2	Y-2	Y-2	Y-2
Extension		Y (fish dev.)	Y (fish dev.)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Insurance							Y	
Individual Schemes								
Mopeds	Y- 27	Y- 6 (NFDB)	Y- 28 (with ice box)			Y -20 (RKVY)		
Cycles		Y -15 (with nets)	Y -30 (with nets)					
Nets		Y- 23	Y-20	Y-5	Y-10			
3 Wheelers		1			Y-1	Y- 4 (RKVY)		

Source: GoAP, Commissioner and Director, Department of Fisheries, Vijayawada; Joint Director, Department of Fisheries of sample Districts
 Note: Y:Yes; FCS: Fisheries Cooperative Society; RKVY: Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana; NFDB: National Fisheries Development Board; Comm.: Community

distribution of schemes to individual members mainly under SCC scheme. The details are presented below. The numbers in the table indicate the number of schemes distributed.

Suggestions made by FCS members were presented below under three sub-heads:

a) Group Activities:

1. Community Hall to be constructed for every FCS as entry point activity (EPA) and these halls can be used to conducting meetings (Management Committee and GB meetings) and storing equipment like aerators, community nets, bird crap fencing;
2. Provide seed transport van to each FCS in order to supply seed and feed to all the members;
3. Establish fish marketing outlets in the towns on the basis of Direct Marketing Model (*Rythu Bazars*) and identify the fishers and distribute necessary ID Cards and Stalls;
4. Convert at least one FCS in a district as Fisheries Training Centre (FTC) to meet the training needs of fishers on a regular basis;
5. FCS Management Committee members need to be oriented on SCC schemes so that demand for more and more schemes will increase; and
6. Provide skill development to unemployed youth through *Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana* (DDU–GKY); for instance, the driving for aspirants of 4/3/2 Wheelers.

b) Individual Activities:

1. Give preference to educated unemployed youth in the distribution of 4/3/2 wheelers; and
2. Provide training to all FCS members on marketing, technology and processing.

c) General:

1. Exemption onland lease charges on upland tank areas;
2. Ensure quality seed and feed to all fishers in adequate quantities;
3. Financial support for establishment of fish feed units at the FCSs level or nearby group of FCSs villages; fish retail/wholesale marketing support;

4. The FCS doing fishing activity in several years in Public Works Department (PWD) Tanks need to be handed over to the FCSs so as to save the land lease charges and for smooth running their own business in future (sustainability point of view);
5. Provision of essential commodities to be supplied to the FCS dependent member households during fish growing period; and
6. The Board Members are presently nominated but for democratic functioning these members need to be elected so that their accountability to FCS Members would improve.

Section - V

Field Observations and Outcomes of Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)

5.1 Observations from Jalumuru, Sarvakota, Gara and Hira Mandalam Mandals in Srikakulam District

Issues and problems faced by the SC Fisheries Scheme Beneficiaries:

The department has not been delivering the scheme in time, even after sanctioning, due to political pressure and interference. Department of Fisheries provides fingerlings worth Rs.1500 on free of cost basis to beneficiaries. The interested members of fishermen families are provided with training in Kakinada on fish cleaning process; and help in providing a livelihood opportunity. During training period, they are provided with free board and lodging facilities. In this scheme, the trainees are provided Net, Ice Box and Two Wheeler. They are able to lead good life and invest in children's education.

Fishing Nets:

It was reported that prior to the distribution of schemes under SCC, fishermen used to hire nets for catching fish. After getting fishing nets under government scheme, they have been saving this amount. However, fishing nets supplied were of poor quality, leading to damage of nets within short period (within a year or at the most one and half years). Fishermen wanted both quality (Nylon) and quantity nets (20kg) to be supplied.

Ice Box:

Fishermen are feeling more secured with supply of the Ice Box. They often faced problems of spoilage of fish in the past when they did not possess Ice Box, due to time lag between catching fish and reaching market. Thus, preserving fish was major concern in the past. After distribution of Ice Box by the Fisheries Department, the fishermen are able to preserve fish; and carry fish in good condition to market and get a better price.

Two Wheeler:

The beneficiaries are now able to reach market in time with distribution of Two Wheeler; and able to sell fish at good price. They are also earning additional income by using two

wheelers for the following activities: (i) buy vegetables while returning after selling fish; and sell them in their villages; (ii) carry and sell dry fish in market; (iii) transport fodder from agriculture fields; and (iv) bring agricultural inputs from market and transport different agriculture products.

Suggestions by the Beneficiaries:

1. Eligible people with seniority are to be given insurance and pension;
2. For illiterate people, driving license should be issued with the help of Regional Transport Office or Regional Transport Authority (RTO/RTA);
3. All fishermen should be sanctioned the schemes without any political interference (i.e., local leaders, *JBMVC*);
4. Government must supply good quality material and equipment to ensure durability and less maintenance cost. This will help in saving time and money;
5. The government should provide proper training with hands on support and impart skills on the proper use of fishing material and other equipment supplied under different government programmes/schemes; and
6. Fisheries Department shall establish service center for the repair of fishing material and other equipment.

Cycle with Fishing Nets:

In order to help fishermen to transport and sell harvested fish in fresh and hygienic condition, assistance was provided for the purchase of cycle. The benefits accrued after availing the scheme, besides better income, as informed by the fishermen, were: reduction in the transport time and drudgery and sale of fish in surrounding villages. In the past, they were used to carry fishing nets as head loads and hence were forced to restrict their fishing activity to nearby localities. Now they are able to travel longer distance along the river line and take up fishing activity in locations with higher potential for fish catch.

Had these schemes were not given; many beneficiaries would have shifted to other works. Another tangible benefit was the improved access to financial institutions after getting the scheme i.e., they got bank loans. Income earned from fish sale is partly used to clear loan as well meeting consumption needs, health and education expenditure, and purchase of fingerlings.

Some of the local elite have been spreading misinformation such as subsidy is 30 per cent as against the 90 per cent subsidy under the scheme. It may lead to siphoning of subsidy partly. It was informed that there is collusion between local leaders and officials in some places. It was reported that a car driver of official was sanctioned four-wheeler scheme though he is not member of FCS.

Fishermen Activities across Seasons:

- ◆ No fishing activity in the months of June, July, August, November and December i.e. lean period;
- ◆ *August:* It is a breeding season for fish and it is a conservation practice not to fish so as to maintain the fish population. So, they engage in agriculture activities during the month;
- ◆ *November and December:* *Karithika Masam* falls in November. The fishermen participate in agriculture activities to offset the loss of livelihood in fishing;
- ◆ *June:* Irrigation tanks would be driedup; and
- ◆ *May and June:* They depend on selling of cashew nuts and dry fish during these months for meeting both ends.

Four-wheelers, Seed Transport Van, Reefer Van have been used to transport fingerlings from Kakinada and Visakhapatnam hatcheries to fishery tanks of FCS in the villages and also transport fish and prawns to big markets. During the other period, these were used for transporting other materials form market. Income thus earned was used for children's education and to lead a decent life.

5.2. East Godavari District

Observations from Rajanagaram and Korukonda Mandals

Three/Two-Wheeler with Nets:

The department has distributed Two-Wheelers to SC members. Those who got schemes were largely satisfied since the scheme had improved their livelihoods, by catching fish in canals and streams in Godavari and with supplementary wage income from agriculture. They reported of clearing the debts to some extent and able to meet costs of children's education from the income earned from the activity. Some of them even reported of constructing houses.

Problems Reported:

The major issues faced by fishermen are:

(i) delay in sanction of schemes; (ii) the sanctioned schemes are not delivered in time; (iii) no communication of information to people who got sanction; (iv) diversion of nets sanctioned from eligible people to others by taking money; and (v) officials playing a mere spectator role.

The Suggestions and demands from the fishermen:

1. Every one should be given schemes without political interference, beyond party lines, in a phased manner to help them earn more income and improved livelihoods;
2. They require bank loans and insurance;
3. Two wheelers are to be provided to all fishermen;
4. Need to help fishermen in taking up small business activities by providing driving licenses with the support of RTO;
5. Distribution of quality equipment to fishermen;
6. Government need to provide training to beneficiaries; and
7. Social Security Pensions should be given for fishermen who crossed 50 years of age.

5.3. Kurnool District

FCS members and licensed holders in Kurnool district are involved in fishing activity in riverline, canals and streams flowing from Srisailam and Tungabhadra irrigation projects and also in Pothireddypadu dam. They are also marketing the harvested fish.

Fishermen here are more dependent on fishing activity, as they don't own any land. They are involved in repair of nets during fishing growing period. The four wheelers were not distributed due to MLC election code. Key role is played by JBMVCs, Gram Panchayat Sarpanch and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) Members in sanction of the schemes.

Fishing Nets Scheme:

The beneficiaries of fishing nets have reported that they were not able to sell in big markets and get higher price due to lack of transport facility. They wanted government to provide Two/Three Wheelers for improving their livelihoods.

Fishing Nets and Coracle Boats Scheme:

These equipment are required for taking up fishing in Srisailam dam, Pothireddypadu and Gorakallu Reservoirs. In the past, they used to get less catch and earn limited income. They were also used to sell to middlemen and get satisfied, in the absence own transport facility. They are now able to earn more income as they can go to middle of reservoir and lay fishing net for catching fish. Thus, they can increase quantum of fish catch and sell at good price. The gains accrued from accessing scheme include better income, repayment of loan, good education to children and improved livelihood.

Problems:

Fishing nets given by the government get damaged in short time span (within one year). Coracle boats are to be purchased once in a year, as they are made out of bamboo since these get damaged due to exposure to water and sun.

Suggestions:

The schemes are to be sanctioned every year and continued till saturation is achieved; and to be sanctioned and delivered in time without political interference. As there are many illiterate youth, government needs to provide Two/Three Wheelers to those who completed 10th class to be eligible for license. Youth need to be trained and encouraged to take up business by providing stalls in fishmarket, fish vending, etc.

5.4. Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore District (Nellore District)

Observations from Vanketachalam, Manubaku, Kavali and Jaladanki Mandals :

The schemes sanctioned to SC/ST fisherman in this district are: Cycle, Fishing-Net, Two/Three Wheelers. The number of people benefited is higher in the district when compared to other districts due to influence of political leaders, FCS President, GP Sarpanch, MPTC Member and *Mandal Parishad* President (MPP). There is improvement in livelihoods and income of the people who received the schemes. It was reported that

it used to be very difficult to access loan in the past; and with improvement in economic status, their credit worthiness has improved. The increased income has positive impact on children's education.

Cycle with Fishing Nets Scheme:

People used to go on foot to catch and sell fish. In the process, they were spending a lot of time in travel and the quality of fish was poor. With the increase in mobility due to supply of bicycle, they are also able to catch fish two to three times. Harvested fish can be now transported faster than before in fresh conditions and able to get higher price. They are able to live happier than before and earn more income with support of other family members.

Market Yard in Kavali:

Fishermen have been selling wet and dry fish, every day, in this market. Some of them got three wheelers scheme from the government. Lack of required infrastructural facilities is affecting their earning. So, they want proper facilities are to be created in the market.

They also wanted the government to extend support and introduce schemes for establishing live fish selling unit by fishermen. All the required material and support for establishing live fish selling unit in the market be provided i.e., allocation free place in market, supply of oxygen cylinder and Syntax tank. Similarly, cement storage tanks are to be constructed. These measures will help in employing unemployed youth and enhance their income earning opportunities.

Two Wheeler Scheme

The beneficiaries of the two-wheeler scheme have reported that they gained in terms of saving time and improving income. They are able to do multiple tasks such as selling dry fish, timely collection and selling of fresh fish (without much time lapse from harvesting to selling), selling fish at better price in many places, and bringing vegetables while returning for sale in the village; thereby able to earn additional income. The vehicle is used for own purpose, attending marriages /functions, going to hospitals, transporting agricultural inputs, produce from field to home, taking and bringing back children from school.

Problems faced by Fisherman:

1. While selling (as a *petti* business activity), they encounter problems from local police;
2. Families have become insecure, in the absence of insurance, due to death of earning member or emergency situation;
3. Repair of moped is becoming more expensive;
4. Lack of ID cards is posing problems in establishing proper identity, answering queries, etc.,
5. Fishing net is getting damaged within a year, as quality nets are not provided;
6. Local leader are interfering and depriving eligible people from getting schemes sanctioned;
7. The Departmental Official are sanctioning schemes to those who are not eligible bowing to political pressure;
8. People are facing problems as locally suitable schemes are not sanctioned;
9. Not able to participate in fish catch due to health issues;
10. It has increasingly becoming difficult to feed family when family fails to attend to the fishing activity;
11. Livelihoods have not improved despite migrating to other places; and
12. People with disabilities are facing more problems.

Overall Observations

1. The schemes meant for SC/ST fishermen are to be distributed throughout the year;
2. Awareness camps and trainings are to be organized to FCSs members on fishery schemes by the officials;
3. Schemes are to be sanctioned to the eligible members based on seniority without any political interference;
4. Introduce/promote locally suitable income generation and/or employment programmes;

5. Government shall provide health cards, ID Cards and insurance to fishers;
6. Quality fishing material and equipment to be distributed to all the beneficiaries;
7. Service centers are to be established for repairing Two/Three/Four Wheelers. Youth from FCS families are to be trained and involved in running these centers;
8. Irrigation project affected and displaced people are to be provided with schemes with 100 per cent subsidy under Relief and Rehabilitation (R&R);
9. Government schemes are to be provided without any partiality or favoritism and political interference;
10. Fingerlings breeding units are to be established in suitable places by involving FCSs, which will help in additional employment;
11. Reefer Van, Seed Transport Vehicle and four wheeler schemes have been benefiting only small number of families. For benefiting more members, Two Wheelers are to be provided under SCC schemes. Such approach will help in employment and income generation;
12. Currently fishing nets weighing 10 kg are provided. In this place, Nylon nets weighing 20kg (durable for 2-3 years) are to be provided;
13. Fishermen above 50 years age are not able to go for catching; and hence finding it difficult to feed family. Pensions are to be given to such FCS fishermen;
14. During fishing ban period months, fishermen (and displaced families) are to be given Rs.4000 per month and supplied with 100 kg. of rice irrespective of type of fishing activity (now the former is in vogue for marine fishers); and
15. Families of deceased Fishermen are to be provided with Income Generating Programmes (IGPs) or employment opportunities.

Section - VI

Implementation Challenges and Way Forward

Common problems affecting the implementation of fishery schemes:

Scarcity of Staff:

At present there many posts lying vacant in the Fishery Department due to retirements, non-recruitment and consequently the field and middle level officials are overburdened. Frequent transfers, additional/in-charge ships, assignment of non-fishery related works led to underutilization of funds and non-achievement of targets as well as ineffective monitoring of the schemes' progress. The department runs the activities through contract workers i.e. Multi-Purpose Fishery Assistants (MPFAs) who neither have much adequate exposure to field situation nor keen on continuing in this temporary job. The most affected are the Mandals where fishing is an important activity. The Rayalaseema districts are worse placed in this regard. There is one Joint Director of Fisheries (JDF) for all the four districts affecting the quality of services to be rendered.

Lack of Capacity Building Infrastructure:

To impart training to field staff and fishers, there are only two Inland Fishery Training Centres (IFTCs: in Kurnool and West Godavari) for the entire state. These are expected to provide training to FCSs and license holders. Further, the District training Centers and State level (SAMETI: State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute) unit are facing manpower problems; the classes are being organized with the help of resource persons engaged on contractual basis. There is a dire need to strengthen the training infrastructure and convert some of the FCSs in to Training Centers for skill development and awareness building.

Inadequate Number of MMGs:

To make the fishing activity more rewarding and to tap the new as well as untapped opportunities, the women members of the fisher community need to be mobilized, educated and organized. For this, the state should promote formation of MMGs in a large measure.

Political Interference:

The field reports unambiguously reveal the increased involvement of local leaders in identification of beneficiaries and allotment of schemes, some of the needy SC fishers were denied. The high transaction costs for various schemes raise doubts about the rent seeking behavior of the local elite and corruption among the bureaucracy.

Role of Middlemen:

This is the most common problem encountered by the fishers in marketing their output. Due to information asymmetries and in a few cases due to interlocking of credit and output markets and perishability of the product, the tiny fishers have little bargaining power. As a result, the share of fisher in consumer rupee is low. Middlemen earn Rs. 20 - 40 per Kg. of fish depending upon the market conditions. The provision of 2/3/4 Wheelers helped the fishers to sell directly in urban market.

Factors Influencing Fund Use:

The FGDs and interactions with officials point out some of the lacunae in identification of beneficiaries for various schemes and suggestions are made to improve the overall progress of the sub-plan activities.

- a) The beneficiaries informed that the utilization of funds was more where SC officials are involved in implementation;
- b) More number of SC Fishermen Cooperative Societies and their active participation in terms of regular conduct of meetings, training programmes would facilitate optimal use of available funds;
- c) In FCSs where SCs are a minority, the target achievement appears to be tardy leading to low utilization of funds;
- d) District officials (regular staff) when mainly attend to the implementation of schemes, the financial progress of the schemes would be higher;
- e) The beneficiary selection should be an ongoing process; and
- f) Institutional credit on concessional terms (interest free loans and/or under interest subvention scheme) should be extended to SC FCSs to take up value addition activities through Fishers' Producer Organizations (FPOs). These should be tried on a pilot basis in each district.

Section - VII

Conclusions and Suggestions

The state supported welfare schemes for SC fishers have been received well but still there is unmet demand for most of the schemes. The participation of other sub-caste SC population other than Mala and Madiga has been found to be marginal and in the sample only a few families from Paidi and Relli sub-castes have availed of this scheme. Why the other sub-castes have not taken advantage of these welfare schemes. This issue needs to be probed.

The schemes have emerged as major source of income and not only the beneficiary but also other members are also involved in many cases gainfully. Most of the beneficiaries could move out of poverty (poverty norm of Rs.1.2 lakh per annum per family). The sustainability of schemes like nets, ice boxes and boats is a moot question since the longevity of these schemes is hardly one or two years. Either they should be supported to such an extent that they can purchase these on their own or with financial assistance from credit institutions. The state may extend the interest free loans or loans under interest subvention scheme, as is given for crop loans for farmers.

The awareness of beneficiaries about state supported schemes meant for SCs has been good but sizeable proportion has been ignorant of the eligibility conditions. It is disquieting that some of the SC fishers are obtaining information on these schemes from local leaders and but the same need to be confirmed by the departmental sources. In cases of information gap, the same need to be filled in by making FCSs as information dissemination centers and agencies for hand holding support, wherever necessary. There is ample scope to promote MMGs who can take up the processing activity for value addition. The state can attempt to create Fisher Producers Companies (FPCs) on pilot basis in a few districts.

The present practice of nominating the board members should be replaced by direct elections; this ensures greater accountability of the board. The present criterion for enrolment of new members in FCS (linking it to tank area) should be re-examined. The state should be more pro-active in leasing out ponds/tanks (GP and PWD) to FCSs with preference to SCFCSs.

The transaction costs appear to be high working out to 10-20 per cent of unit cost. This indicates the presence of middlemen. The local leaders' involvement in getting the scheme to the beneficiaries may also lead to corrupt practices. These costs need to be scaled down substantially. The JBMVC is expected to bring transparency to scheme implementation but the field situation did not lend support to that view. This issue needs greater scrutiny.

The beneficiaries are happy with the unit cost and assets distributed except in the case of nets. They preferred nylon nets of 20 kg. Another suggestion of the beneficiaries is to give integrated scheme i.e., Boat-Net-Ice box-Cycle/2 Wheeler than in piecemeal fashion. The data also established better returns from the integrated schemes. Another advantage of integrated scheme is that the beneficiaries can sell their fish and prawn directly in urban markets and avoid middlemen.

The supply of quality seed and feed to the FCSs has been found to be beneficial but the beneficiaries expressed that the fingerlings of right age need to be provided to reduce mortality. Within the existing tanks, area can be earmarked for fish breeding centers to meet the total demand for fingerlings and ensure supply of right size and age fingerlings.

The beneficiaries of vehicles need to have driving licenses. The aspirants can be trained under DDU-GKY or link to any other skill development programme (e.g., Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) of Banks) so that they can manage the schemes or can become taxi drivers.

Information in adequacies on aspects like market demand, (virtual) prices and services including loans were reported by many beneficiaries. The state can provide such information to the fishers on their mobiles and if necessary suitable apps may be developed. Though the state claims development of ICT applications for fishers, the field situation warns that these fishers with mobiles are to be connected and also regular updating of information is equally important. The state should promote establishment of service centres for attending to the repairs of the vehicles at reasonable rates.

Measures to promote fishing as a remunerative avocation to SC fishers are mentioned below:

1. There is ample scope to establish Fish Food Courts (FFCs) in the urban and peri-urban areas given the high income elasticity of fish consumption and projected high growth of state income. Training programmes have to be designed and executed accordingly;

2. Ornamental fish production holds promise in the state. The fish seed production coupled with opening of aquarium shops in central places and near industrial establishments would provide productive employment and fetch higher income to fishers. Towards this end, market oriented training and credit support for SC fishers are essential. Promotion of Rick Yard aquarium with unit cost of about one lakh rupees would help unemployed youth/FCSs/MMGs to get in to rearing of ornamental fish. Exposure visits can be organized for the target group to take up this activity. The private sector can be roped under Public Private Partnership (PPP) for these purposes. These schemes can be taken up with the financial support of NFDB, RKVY and SCC funds;
3. Fish Processing/value addition activities such as pickles have the twin advantage of addressing the perishability issue and avoid distress sales during excess production and also ensures value addition. Dry fish plants with solar system have to be established. Besides awareness generation, training on preparation of fish based sauce, soups etc., have to be imparted to fisher women/ MMGs. These activities can also be taken up by FCSs through Fishers Producer Companies (FPCs) with concessional institutional finance and technical support from the professionals/ organizations;
4. The schemes should be prepared based on area specific approach while keeping the financial viability and administrative capability of local institutions with the consultation of stakeholders like FCSs, LHs and MMGs;
5. Entry Point Activities (EPA): construction of Community Hall, health checkups, exposure visits to sites of good practices, etc., would be an ideal intervention;
6. Organise License Holders in to groups so that they can access institutional credit and also demand more schemes for improving their livelihoods;
7. Quality feed to be provided to fishery tanks under FCSs; and
8. Involve the fishers in the works taken up under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during the lean/growth period.

References

GoAP (2016): *Report of the Commission on Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural Development of Andhra Pradesh*, Chairman: R. Radhakrishna, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad.

Annexure

Annexure 1 : Scheme/Institution-wise Beneficiaries Selected Details

Scheme	FCS	LHs	MMG	Un Employed Fisher	SDP	Total
4Wheeler	4	0	1	1	0	6
3Wheeler	16	0	0	2	0	18
2Wheeler	46	0	6	1	0	53
Refer Van	1	0	0	0	0	1
Seed Transport Van/Vehicle	2	0	0	0	0	2
Cycle with Net Materials	12	3	0	1	4	20
Ice Box and Net	0	3	0	0	0	3
Ice Box, Net and Coracle	0	3	0	0	0	3
Ice Box	3	2	5	0	5	15
Net	17	20	0	0	0	37
FRP Boat	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	101	32	12	5	9	159

Note: FCS: Fishery Cooperative Society; LHs: License Holders; MMG: Matsya Mithra Group; SDP: Special Development Programme; FRP: Fiber Reinforced Plastic

Source: Commissioner of Fisheries, GoAP, Vijayawada and Field Survey (PRA/FGD Methods)

Annexure 2 : District-wise Fishermen Activities in AP :2017

Sl. No.	District	No. of Fishermen Engaged in			Members in Fishing Community	Fishermen in Fishing Activity	
		Fishing Activity	Marketing of Fish	Repairing/ Mending of Nets		Inland	Marine
1.	Srikakulam	50208	25566	226	50434	14944	35264
2.	Vizianagaram	25015	5685	2350	27365	13015	12000
3.	Visakhapatnam	38582	13423	582	39164	9803	28779
4.	East Godavari	70316	48281	22035	92351	22500	47816
5.	West Godavari	27452	6354	755	28207	22092	5360
6.	Krishna	49350	8400	4200	53550	23100	26250
7.	Guntur	30635	1282	9234	39869	15390	15245
8.	Prakasam	31370	13600	2240	33610	7170	24200
9.	S.P.S.Nellore	65791	12950	6700	72491	17819	47972
10.	Y.S.RKadapa	1912	360	200	2112	1912	0
11.	Kurnool	10590	3450	162	10752	10590	0
12.	Ananthapuramu	8162	8162	12	8174	8162	0
13.	Chittoor	1320	720	360	1680	1320	0
	Andhra Pradesh	410703	148233	49056	459759	167817	242886

Source: Commissioner of Fisheries, GoAP, Vijayawada

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