

# SUCCESS STORY

## Fish Farming A New Trend of Livelihood

Motivated by the assistance from the Department of Fisheries, North Garo Hills, Shri. Pollindro Sangma of Lower Sualman village of Bajengdoba area under North Garo Hills is now known as the most successful progressive fish farmer of the area. Despite trying his hands at several small businesses, luck was never on his side until the idea of fish farming struck his mind. With the intervention of the Fisheries Department and his "never give up attitude" Shri. Pollindro is the living inspiration for hundreds of fish farmers in the village. Through sheer perseverance, dint of hard work, good farm planning and management, ably supported by the Department, he attained this status.

Shri. Pollindro Sangma, a father of 3 children was earlier engaged in small local business with the sole aim to make a livelihood but the income generated from this business was barely sufficient to support his family. Having heard about fish farming, he then decided to construct a fish pond of 0.1 hectare. Initial production from this pond was so scarce, that he was almost at the verge of giving up fish farming. However things changed when the Department assisted him with intensive training which inspired Shri. Pollindro to start learning scientific management practices. He now understood that Pisciculture is a scientific process and good management is essential.

The project of Shri. Pollindro Sangma has been taken up under the "State Aquaculture Mission" in the year 2011-12. In the beginning, with much difficulties and financial hardships he managed to construct his pond covering an area of 0.1 hectare with his own capital. Later, upon receiving Departmental assistance he extended his pond to an area of 0.3 hectare with a required depth of 1.5-2 m. He extended his intensive fish farming with high expected returns and visible economic upliftment. Braving all odds to become a successful fish farmer, Shri. Pollindro is



Shri. Pollindro Sangma at his newly constructed Pond.

now a happy farmer and is taking care of his family from the income generated from his fish farming venture.

During the "Aqua Fest" 2013 held at Tura, West Garo Hills, he sold 75 kgs of fish @ Rs 150/Kg making an income of Rs 11,250/-. The total fish production from this project is about 300-350 kgs of fish per annum which he sold @ Rs 200/kg generating an income of Rs 60,000-70,000. The success story of Shri. Pollindro Sangma is an eye-opener to many of the farmers for adopting fish farming as a means of livelihood.



"Farming is fascinating. The only thing is that it requires continuous hard work and devotion", says Smti. Enitha Marak, a woman entrepreneur who started fish farming few years ago. A resident of Reking Village under Resubelpara C&RD Block, Smti. Enitha paved the way for herself by earning a respectable livelihood out of fish farming.

Her project was assisted by the Department of Fisheries in the year 2010-11 under the Scheme "Special Plan Assistance". Her dedication and contribution to the fishery sector has gained her the Excellence Award conferred by the Fishery Department during the A'we Winter Festival cum Aqua Fest 2015.

Her yearly production of table size fish is approximately 200-250 kgs from her 0.1 hectare pond. She is one of the active farmers of her area with her project being well managed and looked after.

Smti. Enitha has also motivated other fellow farmers in her village and neighbouring villages also. The key to her success lies in her eagerness to learn, work hard and the adoption of a positive attitude.

The success stories of Shri. Pollindro Sangma and Smti. Enitha Sangma in fish farming has inspired many other enthusiasts to partake in fish rearing which would help curb unemployment for scores of people and produce higher supply of white meat (Fish) at reasonable price.