

# FISH PRODUCTION POTENTIAL IN INDIA

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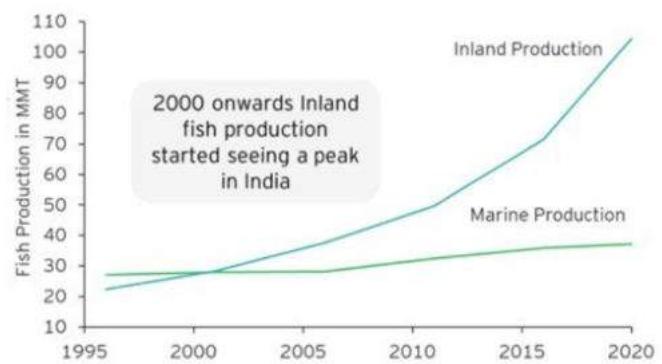
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India is the world's third largest fish producer and this accounts for around 7.7% of global fish production. This sector provides employment to 16 million fishermen and fish farmers. Since India is one of the world's leading seafood exporting nations, this sector is an important source for foreign exchange gains.

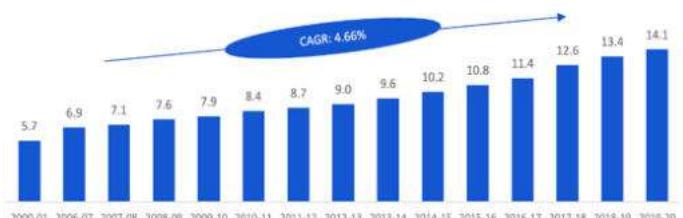
Apart from large-scale freshwater fish farming, ornamental fish farming and high-value marine fish farming have recently gained popularity. Fish output in India has expanded at a higher rate than in the rest of the world.

Between 1950-51 and 2018-19, global total fish production increased 9.26 times, whereas total fish production in India increased at twice the global rate during the same period. Inland fisheries had faster growth as a result of promotional and developmental measures such as infrastructure development, promotion and subsidy support programmes for fish farming, marketing, price realisation and extension services, among other things.

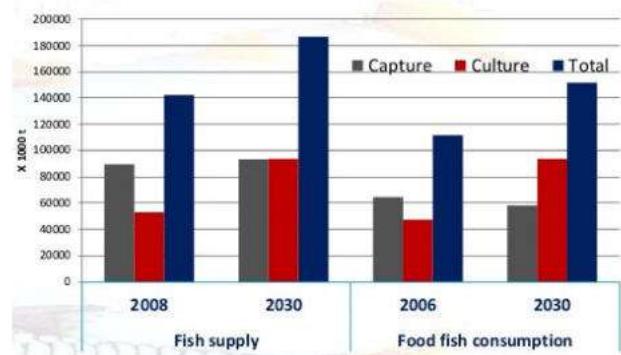
Nevertheless, fish farming in India has a lot of scope for improvement in terms of production and productivity. Indeed, 41% of the total fish production in country are obtained from Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.



India's Fish Production (million metric tonnes)



Source: Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Department of Fisheries, Economic Survey 2020-21



## Diversity

India possesses more than 10% of the world's fish biodiversity and is one of the 17 countries with the most biodiversity. There are about 3,000 fish species in India (Fig 1), with two-thirds of them are marine, a third being freshwater, and over 100 being brackish.

Freshwater species like Pangasius (a type of catfish) and tilapia are mostly preferred in aquaculture in recent years, apart from white leg shrimp in brackish water. Carp production, which has relatively modest feed intensities as compared to other aquaculture species like Pangasius or tilapia, is anticipated to continue to account for the majority of fish production in India.

More than 50 different species of fish and shellfish items are being exported from India to 75 countries across the world.

## Government schemes for promoting aquaculture

Government of India (GOI) launched the "Blue Revolution," with the goal of increasing fish production to 150 million tonnes by 2020 and 200 million tonnes by 2022-23. In order to promote aquaculture, GOI established 429 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and 39 Brackishwater Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (BFDAs). To further develop fisheries sector, GOI launched "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)", with the objective to improve the value chain, which includes infrastructure development, traceability, production, post - harvest administration, and quality management.

## Benefits of PMMSY

1. Fish production will be increased to 220 lakh metric tonnes by 2024-25.
2. Export earning will be doubled to Rs.100,000 crores.
3. 55 lakh people will get employment opportunities.
4. Domestic fish consumption will be promoted and investments will be attracted.

## Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

Government of India created FIDF to provide loan to farmers through kisan credit cards. Farmers can get loan over a period of 5 years, with a maximum repayment duration of up to 12 years. The fund also helps the aquaculture industry with pond construction, reservoir cage installation, and fish processing equipment, among other things.



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