

AN ANALYSIS OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR OF GOA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

The Fisheries sector has been playing an important role in the Indian economy by its contributions to employment generation, income augmentation, foreign exchange earnings, providing food and nutrition security. Presently, India constitutes about 5.4% of total fish production with an annual fish production of about 9.06 million metric tons (ICAR, 2013). The fisheries sector of Goa contributes about 2.5% of the total GDP of the state (third position after West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh) and 17.1% of the agricultural GDP of the State. Goa contributes to about 1.85% of the total marine fish landings of our country, (CMFRI, 2013). Thus, the fishing industry of Goa plays a vital role in socio-economic development of Goa by contributing substantially towards Net State Domestic Product through Export and Domestic trade annually, (GOG, 2013). Recognizing the importance of fishery in the national economy, this paper attempts to evaluate the development of fisheries sector in the state of Goa, contribution of fisheries sector to the state of Goa, role played by the government, constraints faced by the industry in Goa and extends a few suggestions that could be considered as instrumental in formulating policies to give a real thrust to the fisheries sector of Goa.

Keywords: Contribution, trends in fish catch, growth of marine exports, constraints and sustainability.

Introduction

An overview of India's Fisheries sector.

The world fisheries sector has changed rapidly during the last few decades. At present 38 percent of all fish produced in the world is exported and in value terms, over two thirds of fishery exports by developing countries are directed to developed countries (FAO, 2012). India is the second largest producer of fish and second largest producer of fresh water fish in the world after China. India's annual fish production was 9.06 million metric tons (ICAR, 2013). Fish production in India in just six decades increased from 0.75 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 9.6 million tonnes during 2012-13. This resulted in average annual growth rate of over 4.5 percent over the years which have placed the country on the forefront of global fish production, only after China, (GOI, 2013). The sector contributes about 1 percent to the overall GDP and 4.6% of the agricultural GDP, (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, 2014). In India, fish production has increased to 90.40 lakh tonnes (33.21 lakh tones for marine and 57.19 lakh tonnes for inland fisheries in 2012-2013), (GOI, 2013). During 2012-13, India's exports of fishery products aggregated to 9,28,215 tonnes in volume and valued at Rs 18, 856.26 crore recording a growth of 13.6% over previous fiscal year (GOI, 2014).

India has vast potential for fisheries in view of long coastline of 8,118 kms apart from inland water resources. The fisheries sector of India is the source of livelihood for a large section of economically backward population of the country. Direct and indirect employment is an important way in which the fishery sector contributes to national economies. India fish eating population is about 56% of total population (Planning Commission, Govt. of India, 2013); per capita fish consumption is about 8.49 kg. (CMFRI, 2013). Besides the actual process of fishing, a number of ancillary and subsidiary activities like marketing, processing and small scale vending also creates livelihood for a number of