

Environmental Impact of Aquaculture Operations on the Goan Ecology

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The increasing world population is expected to cross the 8.20 billion mark by the year 2025 and cause an increase in food shortages all over the globe. Aquaculture produce is not only a good source of cheap proteineous food, but is also employment generating and a good foreign exchange earner, through exports. Therefore, more and more countries, especially, in Asia are now turning to aquaculture as a source of proteinous foods, jobs and foreign exchange. Aquaculture plays an important role in bringing about economic development and social equity in our society, however, the main challenge lies in conducting this activity in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. The SWOT analysis done as a part of this paper, studies the benefits against the social and environmental costs of aquaculture. Poor knowledge of technology adaption in various situations leads to farmers knowingly or unknowingly causing irreversible ecological damage. There is an urgent need to develop an ecologically sustainable model for aquaculture operations.

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INTRODUCTION

The increasing world population is expected to cross the 8.20 billion mark by the year 2025 and would lead to increase in food shortages all over the globe. Aquaculture produce is not only a good source of cheap proteineous food, but is also employment generating and a good foreign exchange earner, through exports. Therefore, more and more countries, especially, in Asia are now turning to aquaculture as a source of proteinous foods, jobs and foreign exchange. Traditional intensive aquaculture promised a yield of over 10,000 kgs. per hectare of land, this was an increase of between 3564 percent over the traditional methods of cultivation which yielded only around 140 kg per hectare. Several South East Asian countries quickly adopted these methods and obtained

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