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Role of Government through Subsidies and Schemes for the Welfare of Fishing Community in Goa

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Abstract

In this study an attempt is made to evaluate the benefits of each subsidy/scheme provided by the Government of Goa for the welfare of fishing community from 2012-16 with the help of percentage analysis by using secondary data. The analysis of the subsidies/ schemes showed that maximum beneficiaries have availed fuel subsidy and general insurance scheme and the least availed scheme is the National Welfare fund for Development of Fishermen Village Housing. The percentage of government grant to total GSDP towards the fisheries subsidies in Goa has increased for the last 4 years. Policy intervention is necessary to ensure monitoring of the subsidies provided to the fishermen to ensure long term sustainability as well as nutritional security.

Keywords: Subsidies, Centrally and State sponsored schemes, Blue Revolution.

Introduction

Fisheries subsidies are money/ services from government used to support fishing industry. The top three subsidizing countries of the world are Japan 4.5 billion \$, China 4.5 billion \$ and US 4.098 \$ followed by the European Union. Every year \$35 billion in subsidies are invested into fisheries industries around the world and total global revenue from fishing worldwide is 90 \$. The three main types of subsidies are capacity enhancing subsidies, beneficial subsidies and ambiguous subsidies. Capacity enhancing subsidies allow fishermen to fish more such as tax breaks on fuel, purchase bigger boats engines: improved gear but they decrease fish stock due to overexploitation. Beneficial subsidies help to create sustainability of the fish stocks such as fisheries management, research & development and regulation enforcement. Ambiguous subsidies have both effects capacity enhancing and beneficial subsidies helping fisheries to ensure sustainability. However, Vivas (2017) argues that subsidies create incentives to deplete resources faster.

It is believed that employment security and social security can be achieved by reducing deprivation or vulnerability with the help of subsidies, Kurien (2006). Subsidies and state intervention are essential for the