# A Study On The Problems faced by Aquaculture Farmers


## Abstract

*Aquaculture farmers are finding it very difficult to sustain in this competitive world. An attempt was made to study about the problems faced by aquaculture farmers. Association between competition faced by the aquaculture farmers and their educational status was also analyzed to reach into a conclusion that there is no such relationship*


Aquaculture additionally known as aquafarming, is the farming of fish, crustaceans, molluscs, aquatic plants, algae, and different organisms. Aqua culture involves cultivating of fresh water and saltwater fish populations under controlled conditions and can be different from the harvesting of untamed fish. Mari culture refers to aquaculture practiced in marine environments and in underwater habitats.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), aquaculture "is understood to mean the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Farming implies some shape of intervention in the rearing system to decorate production, consisting of ordinary stocking, feeding, safety from predators, etc. Farming also implies individual or corporate possession of the stock being cultivated."[4]. Particular styles of aquaculture consist of fish farming, shrimp farming, oyster farming, mariculture, algaculture (including seaweed farming), and the cultivation of decorative fish. Particular techniques encompass aquaponics and incorporated multi-trophic aquaculture, each of which combine fish farming and aquatic plant farming.

### Importance of aqua culture

Aquaculture has been the main reason for the increased growth in the supply of fish for human consumption. Out of the total supply , 47 percent of the food supply was met through aquaculture alone. Moreover, aquaculture supply the required protein for the under nourished masses which depends on aquaculture for livelihood. Aquaculture is often integrated with agricultural production to increase the sustainability and to give continuous supply of food for livelihood. Cash income, export earnings and employment can also act as motivating factor for the aquaculture farming activities. Apart from the economic benefits , aqua culture can help promote environment protection too. They help to preserve the endangered fish species from getting extinct. Thus it is vital to study about the problems faced by aquaculture farmers for their betterment at least in the future.

### Analysis and interpretation

Researchers have found it interesting to relate age with involvement in aquaculture farming. Age of the respondents have been given in table No .1 . It is noticed from the table that about 60 % of the respondents were from the age group 35-45, while 10 % were from the age group 25-35 and 30% was from 45 and above age group.

**Table No.1 Age of the respondents**

| Age group(years) | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 25-35 | 5 | 10 |
| 35-45 | 30 | 60 |
| 45+ | 15 | 30 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

**EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF FARMERS**

Education is an important constituent for the development of human resources. Table No.2 shows the literacy levels of the respondents surveyed.

**Table No.2 Literacy levels of the respondents**

| Literacy Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Illiterate | 5 | 10 |
| Literate | 23 | 46 |
| Upto SSLC | 17 | 34 |
| Upto Higher secondary | 5 | 10 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

Respondents who completed upto higher secondary were only 10 % of the total sample. This might be the main reason for the problems which limit further promotion of aquaculture.

**Lack of Processing and storage facility**

Many of the respondents surveyed have said that it was difficult for them to stock the leftovers which could not be sold out on the same day. Processing the leftovers require splendid efforts from the end of farmers. Limited availability of money supply for processing may be a prime reason for not improving the living conditions of farmers. 73 % of them opined that though it was little bit difficult for them to store the remains, it was not a serious issue.

**Table No.3 Problem of processing and storage**

| Problem | Frequency | % |
|---|---|---|
| Very Serious | 5 | 10 |
| Serious | 7 | 14 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Nt Serious | 36 | 73 |
| No problem | 2 | 3 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Huge Competition**

When a homogenous product is being produced by famers in the same locale, there is possibility for huge competition and it is quite natural that when one wins, the other will lose. This study have tried to examine whether huge competition among the famers of a locale have seriously affected their sustainability.

**Table No.4 Problem of Huge Competition**

| **Problems** | **Frequency** | **%** |
|---|---|---|
| Very Serious | 5 | 10 |
| Serious | 17 | 34 |
| Nt Serious | 8 | 16 |
| No problem at all | 20 | 40 |
| | **50** | **100** |

**Lack of government support**

Government support is very much required in the upliftment of poor farmers who are otherwise in a deprived state. But respondents are of the view that interventions from government is very much limited and is not sufficient enough for their betterment. Table No shows the attitude of respondents towards the government support.

**Table No.5 Government support**

| **Category** | **Frequency** | **%** |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 20 | 40 |
| Disagree | 15 | 30 |
| No opinion | 3 | 6 |
| Agree | 6 | 12 |
| Totally Agree | 6 | 12 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Perishability of the product**

Production from aquaculture farming cannot be stored for very long due its low shelf life. This is a serious issue for the farmers who cannot have alternative sources for increasing the saleability of the aquaculture products available from the farms.

**Table No.6 Problem of Perishability**

| **Problems** | **Frequency** | **%** |
|---|---|---|
| Very Serious | 12 | 24 |
| Serious | 13 | 26 |
| Nt Serious | 10 | 20 |
| No problem at all | 15 | 30 |
| | **50** | **100** |

It was felt a need to find out if there is an association between the educational status of the respondents and the competition experienced by the farmers to see if education could help a farmer involved in aquaculture to perform better and to tackle the issues faced.

Ho: There is no association between educational status of respondents and competition experienced by the farmers.

**Table No.7 Relationship between Competition and educational status of Respondents**

| Category | Relationship of competition with educational status | | | | **Total** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Very Serious** | **Serious** | **Not Serious** | **Not Serious At all** | |
| Illiterate | **5** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **5** |
| Literate | **0** | **12** | **5** | **6** | **23** |
| Upto SSLC | **0** | **3** | **0** | **14** | **17** |
| Upto Higher secondary | **0** | **2** | **3** | **0** | **5** |
| Total | **5** | **17** | **8** | **20** | **50** |

| **Results** | |
|---|---|
| Chi square statistic | **2.16** |
| Degrees of freedom | (4-1)*(4-1)= 9 |
| Table value | 16.919 |
| Calculated value is less than the Table value, therefore we accept the null hypothesis. And it is understood hereby that there is no relationship between educational status and competition experienced by the respondents. | |

**Conclusion**

Though Aquaculture is looked upon as a source for revenue generation by large population of many developing countries. It needs proper support from government for upliftment. Since there is close association between educational status and competition experienced, it can be learned that improving educational status can give better ideas for the good future of aquaculture farmers.

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