

A Young Aquapreneur's Journey Towards Success

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ABSTRACT

Mr. Chinmay Sankar Patra, a 40-year-old resident of Gabadiha village in the Gop block, transformed his life from an unemployed graduate to a successful aquapreneur through dedication, innovation, and support from the ARYA (Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture) project. Initially assisting his father on an 8-hectare farm, Patra realized the profitability of fish farming and horticultural crops. His journey into aquapreneurship began with regular consultations at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Sakhigopal, leading to his selection for the ARYA project in 2018-19. Despite challenges like Cyclone Fani, Mr. Patra expanded his fish farming operations, adopted advanced techniques such as Biofloc technology, and engaged in skill development programs. His efforts resulted in a significant increase in net income, rising from Rs. 3,08,300 to Rs. 14,75,460 annually. Today, Mr. Patra is a recognized leader in his community, serving as a master trainer and inspiring other young farmers. His story underscores the impact of innovative agricultural practices and supportive initiatives on personal and community development.



INTRODUCTION

Name of the Enterprise: FISH PRODUCTION

Name: Mr. Chinmay Sankar Patra

Address: S/o – Rajanikanta Patra,
Village- Gabadiha, Block-Gop,

Dist.- Puri

State – Odisha

Mobile Number: 6370684118



Brief description about the entrepreneur:

Chinmay Sankar Patra, son of Rajanikanta Patra, resides in Gabadiha village, Gop block was unemployed after completion of his graduation during 2015. He is 40 years old now and very much enthusiastic, laborious, innovative and quite interested in agriculture and allied activities. He has a very good rapport with near-by fellow farmers and as well as with line-department officials and KVK scientists.

Induction in to ARYA project:

In 2018-19, Mr. Patra's frequent visits to KVK, Sakhigopal, particularly to its demo units, underscored his proactive approach in seeking solutions for field challenges on his farm. His interactions with KVK scientists not only addressed these issues but also facilitated his procurement of essential inputs such as fish seeds, vegetable seedlings, fruit plant saplings, and paddy seeds from KVK's instructional farm. Recognizing his dedication and engagement, KVK scientists unanimously selected him to join the ARYA project.

Initial phase of enterprise development:

His father was a progressive farmer and having an agricultural farm of 8 ha area at Nandigorda mouza. After completion of his graduation, instead of searching for jobs, he started helping his father in various agricultural activities. In that farm there was a big fish pond of 1ha water-spread area where fish farming was going on. Cultivation of other crops like paddy, pulses, vegetables and animal husbandry practices were continuing in rest 7 ha of land. While gradually gaining experience in farming, Mr. Patra realized that fish farming and horticultural fruit crops are quite remunerative than any other field crops.

Journey of Entrepreneurship:

Mr. Patra was motivated by the KVK's fishery scientist to excavate a greater number of fish ponds. He excavated 4 nos. of new tanks of WSA – 2.2 ha by availing MPY scheme in the year 2018-19. During the year 2019, the farm was worst affected by cyclone 'Fani'. Many fruit plants like banana, papaya, coconut and mango were damaged. But, that year, he got a bumper fish yield from all the ponds for a well-to-do sustenance. He revived his farm with plantation of banana in 0.8 ha of land. During the year 2020-21, he was sanctioned with a Biofloc fish farming unit with (2 nos. of tanks of 15T capacity each). He started rearing of small fish seeds to bigger size seeds in that. Seeing his enthusiasm and progress, KVK's fishery scientist prepared a DPR and recommended his name along with the project proposal to district fisheries department for which he was again sanctioned with a Chinese carp hatchery project of Rs.25 lakhs during 2023. He has undergone ARYA skill development training programmes on multiple stocking and multiple harvesting method of fish farming, stunted fingerling production and selected as a beneficiary for the OFT on



“Assessment of growth performance of Amur carp in carp polyculture” and “Assessment of

different environmental probiotics on growth performance of carps”

Benchmark (Before Inclusion under ARYA)

Crop/Enterprise Names	Area (Acre/Number)	Production (Q/Liter/No.)	Gross Income (Rs.)	Net Income (Rs.)
Paddy	10.5	184.8	221800	98600
Greengram	3.0	7.0	38500	14500
Black gram	2.0	4.0	18000	9200
Brinjal	0.5	50	30000	15000
Pointed gourd	0.2	8.0	12000	6500
Chili	0.15	10	7000	3500
Cucumber	0.15	12	10000	4000
Banana	2.0	120	72000	32000
Coconut	2.5	-	-	-
Dairy	2nos	1200liter	24000	15000
Goatery	3nos	-	18000	8000
Fishery	2.5	35	196000	102000
Total	23.5/5nos	431/ 1200 liter	647300	308300

He has undergone a series of ARYA skill training programmes on multiple stocking and multiple harvesting, stunted fingerling production, Biofloc fish seed rearing and selected as a beneficiary for the KVK's OFT on “Assessment of growth performance of Amur carp in carp polyculture” and “Assessment of soil & water probiotics in optimizing fish yield” etc. and came in contact with various successful Aquapreneurs and experts in the field. Now he has been recognized as a successful fish farmer in his locality. He is now self-employed with a

permanent source of income. He has gained social recognition in the society.

Economic development over the period:

Now he is recognized as an affluent fish farmer of the locality and his average net income solely from 3.2 ha pond is Rs.8,40,000/-per annum. Increase in net income over previous income prior to inclusion in ARYA project is around 366%. Present level of his income from different crop & enterprises are represented in below table.

Crop/Enterprise Names	Area (Acre/Number)	Production (Q/Liter/No.)	Gross Income (Rs.)	Net Income (Rs.)
Paddy	5.0	100	175000	95000
Greengram	3.0	9.12	50160	19560
Black gram	2.0	6.8	47600	25200
Brinjal	0.5	70	56000	37500
Pointed gourd	0.2	16	32000	21200
Chili	0.15	14	14000	9300
Cucumber	0.15	18	18000	10800
Banana	2.0	304	336000	224000
Coconut	2.5	20000nuts	200000	150000
Dairy	2nos	1440liter	43200	25200
Goatery	5nos	-	40000	15000
Poultry	20nos	0.42	6300	2700
Fishery	8.0	144	1440000	840000
Total	23.5/27nos	682.34Q/ 1440liter/ 20000nos	2458260	1475460



Chinmay Sankar Patra's diversified agricultural and aquapreneurial activities span across 23.5 acres, yielding significant economic returns. His fishery activities, covering 8 acres, produces 144 quintals of fish, generating a gross income of Rs. 14,40,000 and a net income of Rs. 8,40,000. Complementing his fish farming, Mr. Patra cultivates paddy on 5 acres, producing 100 quintals with a net income of Rs. 95,000, and bananas on 2 acres, yielding 304 quintals for a net income of Rs. 2,24,000. Additional crops include green gram, black gram, brinjal, pointed gourd, chili, and cucumber, collectively contributing to his income. He also manages a coconut farm with 20,000 nuts, dairy producing 1,440 liters of milk, Goatery, and poultry, further diversifying his revenue streams. Overall, his operations produce a gross income of Rs. 24,58,260 and a net income of Rs. 14,75,460, highlighting the effectiveness of his integrated farming approach and the substantial financial benefits of his diverse agricultural and aquaculture enterprises.

Role of KVK in marketing and additional resource generation:

During Cyclone Fani and the Covid-19 pandemic, Chinmay Sankar Patra faced significant challenges in procuring inputs, machinery, and manpower for his crops, as well as marketing his farm produce. At this critical juncture, he maintained constant contact with KVK scientists and other line department officials, who helped him assess the situation and find solutions. They guided him in leveraging online marketing platforms such as FISHFED, Reliance Fresh, Falcon Chilika Fresh, and Fish-on-Wheels to sell his fish and other farm products. Additionally, KVK fishery scientist created an ARYA Fish Farmers WhatsApp group to facilitate local fish farmers in selling their fish to one another, ensuring a steady market for their produce despite the challenging circumstances.

With the proper guidance and recommendations from KVK scientists to district-level departments, Mr. Patra was able to excavate four new ponds, adding 2.2 hectares of water-spread area. Additionally, he developed a Biofloc fish seed production unit, a circular Chinese hatchery, and a new banana cultivation unit covering 0.8 hectares. This comprehensive support from KVK significantly contributed to the expansion and success of his farming operations.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chinmay Sankar Patra's journey from an unemployed graduate to a successful and affluent fish farmer exemplifies the power of innovation, dedication, and support from agricultural initiatives like the ARYA project. His strategic expansion into fish farming, adoption of advanced techniques such as Biofloc technology, and perseverance through challenges like Cyclone Fani have significantly increased his net income and solidified his reputation in the community. Now acting as a master trainer and leading farmer in his district, Patra inspires many young farmers from his village and nearby areas. His farm has become a hub of learning, where aspiring farmers gain practical exposure to various pisciculture activities. Patra's success underscores the transformative impact of innovative agricultural practices, skill development, and community support, highlighting the potential for sustainable rural development and personal empowerment through aquapreneurship.

Action photographs

Supply of fingerlings from KVK



Harvesting of fish from his pond

REFERENCES

Author's Own Compilation