

Floating Garden is an Alternative Livelihood

Erratic and heavy rainfall is the acute problem of Sundarban area. As this deltaic region is just after the bank of the Bay of Bengal, it becomes very much vulnerable during rainy season. During severe floods or heavy rainfall in the monsoon, the water of the pond, river, canal etc. gets overflowed and mostly the fish species in those water bodies run away from it and create a huge loss. The people of this region are very much frightened to see the erratic nature of the climate and search for an option to cope up with this situation. Development Research Communication & Services Centre (DRCSC) has developed a model to rear fish and cultivate small amount of vegetable in a structure which can be floated in the ponds. This structure will also be helpful for the people who are landless.



They can rear fish and cultivate some amount of vegetables with this model in any canal or other common water-bodies. During flood or inundation, this floating garden will be automatically shifted to other places with the rising of the water surface without hampering the production. This structure is made of the locally available materials like; Bamboo, Net, Iron Rod, Plastic drums and Rope. The vegetables are cultivated into the tray placed on the iron structure and fishes below the structure and into a net submerged into the pond-water.

Smritikana Samanta, resident of Ramganga village, Ramganga Gram Panchayat of Patharpratima Block, South 24 Parganas, who is a beneficiary of Sundarban Climate Adaptation Project initiated by DRCSC, has taken this model to examine its practical efficiency. The project has given support for the structure and 40 pieces fry (larger than

spawn) of Tilapia fish. She cultivated Ash gourd, Broad beans and Bitter gourd into the tray by investing Rs 10/- only. She also bought 60 pieces of *Magur* fish (one type of cat fish) with Rs 300/-. She started to cultivate in this model since 25th August, 2018. After 90 days, she has calculated the immediate result. She has got vegetable of Rs 39/- including 1 kg Ash gourd, 300g Broad Beans and 250g Bitter Gourd. She has also expensed Rs 660/- for feeding the fish and got return of Rs 1295/-.

She wants to carry on this model for fish cultivation in the coming years also as it is very easy to rear& cultivate fish in this model.

