

An Alternative Income – Floating Crab cultivation in Sundarbans

Sundarbans, the World's largest mangrove ecosystem is vulnerable to rising climatic hazards in recent times. Development Research Communication & Services Centre (DRCSC), a not for profit making organization based in Kolkata has been taking initiative for the last few years for promoting climate adaptive models & techniques to conserve the mangrove ecosystem and ensure food & livelihood security of vulnerable & marginal families of that area.



Suparna Das & her Husband Shrimanta have taken such initiative to combat the climatic distress by introducing “Crab Fattening” as a climate adaptive model & gets opportunity for alternative income. Suparna and her family resided beside the embankment of the *Gobadi* river at Sagarmadhabpur village of Ramganga G.P. in South 24 Parganas district. Crabs are mostly available in the river, but according to their shape & size those are not marketable. DRCSC with its Sunderban Climate Adaptation project motivated her to introduce Crab culture by using Crab fattening boxes. The area is mostly inundated by the river water during monsoon & the fishes, crabs etc. flown away from the ponds to other areas. So the crab fattening boxes is designed in such a way so that it can float in the pond and in each box one crab is nurtured. The efficacy of this model is that, if the water is also raised in the ponds, it not creates problem as it is floating and the crabs are intact in the boxes. Earlier she used to cultivate saline fishes in their 2 decimal pond with an average

income of Rs.2100/- per annum, but now after nurturing the crabs in that pond using the Crab fattening boxes her family is getting good income and earned Rs.8577/- in 3 months by selling 100 nos. of good well grown crabs. So, there is ample scope of much more income throughout the year.



This initiative strikes in the mind of Suparna and she is very much interested to introduce more crab fattening boxes from her income. This model become an alternative source income and more climate adaptive in the saline, disaster prone Sundarbans.