Summary of Findings

• There are a good number of waterbodies (793 covering 1633 6 bigha area) in the study area and majority of those belong to small & medium size category

• Majority of small size waterbodies belong to single owner operator whereas majority of large waterbodies are mostly with joint owner operator. A considerable proportion of large size waterbodies are also with institutional owner operator

• Among all types of waterbodies, large proportion (42%) belongs to the single owner operator

• 77% of the total waterbodies are under culture and 23% are remained uncultured within which 16% waterbodies are farmable and 7% are derelict. Among the cultured waterbodies, only 2% are under well managed aquaculture i.e. semi-intensive aquaculture and rest 76% are under very poorly managed aquaculture

• Ownership has been found to be an important determinant of the status of aquaculture in the existing waterbodies. Private and individually owned waterbodies have much better farming systems, than jointly owned and Khas waterbodies. However, in some cases, waterbodies under institutional ownership used good farming practices

• The waterbodies in the studied areas is mostly used for polyculture giving importance to IMCs. The production varies between 368 - 1478 kg / ha / yr

• Increase in production is prominent over a gradient of intensification of low-input technology

• All the aquaculture farmers are more capable to access the available livelihood assets like human, natural, physical, social & financial resources, than non-farmers

• Transforming processes and structures is poor for small scale rural aquaculture system

• The positive impacts of small scale rural aquaculture is prominent through increase in productivity, increase in income & household consumption, income diversification, better utilization of natural resources, employment generation, social integration and reducing vulnerability

• Majority of small scale rural aquaculture produced fish is consumed by farmers family
• Marketing system for small scale rural aquaculture produced fish is complex with a number of distribution channels with a number of intermediaries and it is mainly developed by private sector.

• Every intermediary adds some extra costs with the purchase price as a part of their profit. So, farmers receive relatively lower share (approximately 50%) of the consumer’s price.

• Shorter value chain gives more prices for their fish to the farmers than longer value chain.

• Access to information and access to market is very poor for small scale rural aquaculture produced fish marketing system.

• There are a number of noble policies, rules & regulations, developmental programmes, institutional set up and extension system, associated with the small scale rural aquaculture. But there a lot of gaps to take the benefits of all these to the poor.

• Small scale rural aquaculture is with high potentiality to promote the livelihoods but attention to be given to overcome the present felt bottlenecks like poor physical, social and financial resources, weak transforming structures and processes, to make it more effective in promoting the livelihoods of the poor.