PREFACE

Fisheries were somewhat neglected till the 4th Five year plan. Realising the importance of pisciculture, during the 5th Five year plan, the Government of India introduced beneficiary-oriented programmes in the form of a pilot project entitled – “Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA)” to provide self-employment and financial, technical and extension support to fish farming in rural areas. In 1974-75 this programme was further extended under World Bank-assisted, Inland Fisheries Project to 43 potential districts of W.B., Bihar, U.P. and M.P. The number of FFDA's increased to cover 108 districts during the 6th Five year plan and 200 districts during the 7th Five year plan.

To study the socio-economic impact of this programme and to find out the shortcomings, if any, in the implementation of the programme the present study was conducted in the rural areas of Burdwan and Birbhum districts of W.B. The period of collection of data from the sample fish farmers was from August 1999 to August 2002.

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Burdwan

(RAMSUNDAR Bairagya)