In the last ten years or so, I have observed that the imported fish has occupied a significant position in the fish market of Guwahati. This phenomenon is not confined to Guwahati only, it is spreading to all the fish markets of Assam. The major portion of imported fish, come from Andhra Pradesh where most of the people do not generally, take fish. Therefore, it seems interesting how they produced such a big quantity of fish, which meets not only their home demand, also, export a good quantity of fish. The picture is reverse in Assam where fish is the most common item both for poor and the rich, and yet produced the least.

Secondly, both topography and climate are favourable for fish production in this region. Water areas are abundant and well under cover of rich monsoon. Fish cultivation is an ancient profession and fish is intimately connected with our social life. So, it is a paradox why Assam is failing to produce fish sufficiently?

Definitely, various factors effect the fish production, such as ecological, biological, social, economical etc. I have gone through different books and journal and found that the fish farmers can produce about 10 to 15 tonnes of fish from their pond taking resort to scientific cultivation. But as far as my knowledge goes, it is hardly 2 tonnes per hectare in Assam. So, obviously a question arises why this difference?
It is seen that a section of schedule caste people of Assam earn their livelihood through traditional fishing, but most of them are living below the poverty line. Development of pisciculture will definitely ameliorate the economy of the fisherman community besides generating employment.

All this led me to undertake the present project to see some of the aspects of fish production like economics of fish cultivation, problems of fish culturists, generation of employment, future of fish farming in this part of the country where nature provides almost all that is needed.

Hoped, my labour will not go in vain and however little, contribute towards development and expansion of pisciculture in Assam.

Date : 

Mukul Chandra Borah.