CHAPTER VII
FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, an attempt is made to summarise the findings of the study and to give some useful suggestion for the fisheries co-operative societies as well as far the upliftment of the fishermen.

FINDINGS:

(a) The production trends of inland fisheries at the global level indicate a sustained growth during 1998-2003 both captured and acquacultured fish. The production level of acquacultured fish is much above the captured inland fish in the world. (b) Total production of marine fish at the global level shows an up trend during the corresponding period. However captured variety of fish is much above the acquacultured fish. (c) Human consumption of fish has gone up consistently during 1998-2003. Similar trend is observed with regard to non-food uses, user population and per capita fish supply.

Fish production 60th marine and inland at the All India level has indicated a consistent trend of increase from 1950-51 to 2003-04. Average annual growth of fish production 60th marine and inland has shown a trend of fluctuations during the corresponding period.
In India, in the fisheries sector, mechanization is fast developing. The total number of mechanized boats has increased from 13 to 2,80,491 between 1950-51 and 2003-04.

Between 1961-62 and 2003-04, export earnings from marine products increased from Rs 3.92 crores to Rs 609.95 crores.

(a) The upward trend of fish exports from India from 1961-62 to 2003-04 is characterized by marginal amount of fluctuations. The same trend is observed about the value of fish exports during the same period. Marginal fluctuations have been observed about the Indian export of fish in terms of unit value, unit value indices, (b) The trend of severe fluctuations in the export of fish from India is observed in terms of annual growth of fish during 1961-62 to 2003-04.

Karnataka state has a coastline of about 320 kms and about 25,000 Sq kms of continental shelf area, with rich pelagic demersal varieties of fish. Karnataka is one of the richest among the Indian states having brackish water spread area of about 8,000 hectares.

Marine fish production both in terms of quantity and value has indicated severe fluctuations in Karnataka from 1995-96 to 2004-05. Almost identical trend of fluctuations in
production and value of inland fish in the state is observed during the corresponding period.

➢ The unit value per kg of marine fish products and exports has been quite high during 1994-95 to 1997-98 compared to the two periods from 1990-91 to 1993-94 and from 1998-99 to 2004-05 in Karnataka.

A negative growth rate of fish production and value is indicated in a few years between 1990-91 and 2004-05 in Karnataka.

➢ During the period, 2002-03 to 2004-05 number of mechanised and non-mechanised boats increased by only 19,536 where as the numbers of mechanised and non-mechanised boats increased by 32,251 during the 2004-05.

➢ The total marine fish landing has shown a declining trend during the period of 1995-96 to 2004-05. Increasing trend is observed in few varieties of fish like pomfrets and corangids during the same period.

➢ During the period of 1990-91 to 2004-05, export earnings from marine products in Karnataka has increased from Rs.3812.00 lakhs to Rs.7692.39 lakhs.

➢ The full-time active fishermen in the Karnataka State totalled about 2,09,440 accounting for 26 percent of the total fishermen.
Uttara Kannada district has a coastline of about 114 Kms, a continental shelf of about 65 Kms and an EEZ area of about 320 Kms., besides having brackish water area of about 4200 hectares.

Maximum number (2,555) fishermen households were in Kumta taluka.

The total fishermen population in the U.K. district was 1,09,087 of which male population 31,515 and children population was 47,403. The total active population of fishermen according to 2001 census was 50,289 of which male population was 29,108 and female population was 21,181.

There is a greater concentration of fishermen population in Majali, Karwar, Keni, Kumta and Honnavar.

In the 133 fishermen villages in U.K. District there were 133 mechanized 'Purse-sein' boats, 738 Trawlers, 837 out board Gill Nets, 618 inboard Gill Netts, 8 Long Liners and 62 other mechanized boats. The total number of mechanized boats in U.K. District was 2,396.

Maximum numbers of 419 mechanized boats were in Kumta followed by 319 in Karwar, 251 in Majali, 196 in Bhatkal, 153 in Harwada and 152 in Hoannavar. In other centers the number of mechanized boats was less than 150.
➢ There are 55 Ice plants, 12 Ice storage, 6 Freezing plants and 6 Frozen plants in U.K. District. Honnavar had maximum (3 each) colds storages and Karwar and Ankola had maximum (2 each) Freezing and Frozen plants. Bhatkal and Haliyal talukas did not have Freezing and Frozen plants.

➢ Production of marine fish production has indicated a trend of severe fluctuations between 1985-86 and 2004-05. Production was highest at 76,837 metric tonnes in 1985-86 while it was the lowest at 27,137.1 metric tonnes 2004-05. Highest value of Rs.35,998.34 lakhs from fish production was released in 1994-95.

➢ Marine fish landing in Honnavar taluka was maximum in 2004-05 accounting for 34.7 percent of the total followed by Bhatkal (25.7 percent), Karwar (17.4 percent), Ankola (16.0 percent) and Kumta (6.1 percent). Marine fish landing in different talukas in U.K. District during the period from 2000-01 to 2004-05 has been fluctuating from year to year.

➢ Inland fish production between 1999-2000 and 2004-05 has increased from 5,070.90 tonnes to 5,674.46 tonnes. A declining trend in production was noticed between the intervening period.

➢ Karwar taluka accounted for maximum of fish cured in 2003-04 compared to other talukas in U.K. District followed by
Bhatkal, Kumta and Honnavar. The fish was cured through sun drying and salted and dried.

Share of U.K., District in total landings of fish in the state came down from 20.36 percent in 2000-01 to 15.84 percent in 2004-05. This is much below the share of D. K. District and Udupi District in the total landings of fish in the state. Share of Honnavar taluka in the total landings of fish both in the state and the U. K. District was high are compared to the share of other talukas.

Maximum of 22 percent of fish landed in Karwar in 2000-01 went down to 16.42 percent in 2004-05. Landings of fish in Honnavar in 2000-01 were 19.72 of the total fish landing in U.K. District which increased to a maximum of 28.27 percent in 2004-05.

The total value of fish landings in the district rose marginally from Rs.5,209.53 lakhs in 2000-01 to Rs.5,370.39 lakhs in 2004-05.

Maximum number 11 FCSs in Karwar with a total number of 5,542 members followed by Kumta with 10 FCSs with 7,163 members, Bhatkal with 7 FCSs with 7,620 members and Ankola had 5 FCSs with 4,756 members Honnavar, Haliyal and Yellapur had 2 FCSs each while Mundgod and Zoida had one FCSs each.
The two tier structure consisting of primary fisheries co-operative societies at village level and district federation at the district level is extremely weak.

At village level most of the primary fisheries co-operative societies; have limited their activities, to the supply of fishery requisites.

Even in this area the services are extremely limited. No society is having facilities, of the ice plant, workshop for repairs and maintenance of boats and adequate provision of financing repairs and maintenance.

On the marketing side only some societies have taken up marketing of fish, at the landing centers, only to some extent. As these societies are not able to meet the financial requirements of fishermen for repairs, maintenance and working capital they largely depend upon merchants.

Failure of the primary fisheries co-operative societies in catering to the needs of fishermen is due to lack of managerial skill, inadequate financial resources, weak federal structure and unregulated fishing activity.

The Uttar Kannada district, fish Marketing Federation is the apex body. But it does not provide any support to primary fisheries co-operative societies either in supply of requisite
fishery, or marketing of fish. The federation has provided 100 fishing boats or shrimp trawlers, to groups of fishermen of the district, on hire purchase basis, without any reference to primary societies. It has set up ice plant and diesel bunk in the jurisdiction of the Mavinakurve fisheries co-operative society, without any reference to the society. Marketing services provided, by the federation for the marketing of shrimps to limited extent, is also without any reference to PFCSs. This shows that, in a federal structure the primary societies and federation are independent of each other.

- The primary fisheries co-operative societies, will not be able to tackle problems of fishermen or fishing industry in its present, form and weak federal structure. Marine fisheries require a different type of co-operatives, with strong federal structure. These co-operatives should also possess fishing rights to regulate fishing activity, in the interest of fishermen and fishing industry.

- The role of 41 fisheries co-operative societies in the study area has been circumscribed by severe limitations. These limitations have naturally reduced the effectiveness of fisheries co-operatives evolving an efficient fisheries marketing system.

- The assembling of fisheries after they are taken possession of from the fishermen is not organized in well-
prepared premises. It is found that only 5 of 41 fisheries co-operative societies have provided for assembling the fisheries in their society premises while the rest of the 36 societies assembled the fish at the sea shore and arranged for its sale from there. This inadequacy needs to be rectified by proper assembling arrangement.

➢ The most important function of cold storage of fish is neglected by a majority of 37 of the 41 fisheries co-operative societies covered by the study. It is found that only 4 fisheries co-operative societies have their own cold storage facilities. Cold storage facilities are an important component in the marketing of fish since fish is vulnerable to spoilage quickly. The private storages are costly and hence it adds to the total marketing costs and ultimately taxes the consumers by way of high prices. In the absence of cold storage facilities the capacity of producers and traders to wait for a better price is limited and they are forced to sell at their stock at uneconomical price. Hence, it is necessary for all fisheries co-operative societies to join for adequate cold storage facilities. The four societies having cold storage facilities should try to increase the storage capacity from their present level.

➢ The 41 fisheries co-operative societies in the study area have not been providing grading facilities to the fishermen.
This is another lacuna in the functioning of these societies. Grading is one of the important processing and marketing functions. Individual fishermen cannot afford to undertake the scientific grading of large varieties of marine fish. Hence as co-operative organizations these fisheries societies should maintain the expert staff for grading and consider this as an important marketing function since grading helps the fishermen in getting a better price and larger income.

➢ The sales organization of the fisheries co-operative societies needs to be streamlined. It is a sad reflection on these societies that they did not have well organized sales organizations to conduct and guide fisheries sales in the area. Further these societies have not entered export sales of special type of marine products particularly the prawn variety of fish, which has vast demand in western countries. Majority of these societies have confined their sales within the district. Hence it is necessary that these societies widen their market and enter the export market.

➢ The fisheries co-operative societies sell their fish to the usual channel of distribution like commission agents, wholesale merchants, retail merchants and hotels. These societies would better have a network of their depots in important marketing centers and distribute their fish through
them. This would help in economy of sales and a better price for the consumers.

- The fisheries co-operative have not developed a proper system of obtaining market information. They have been depending on the market intermediaries like commission agents, wholesale merchants, salesman etc. The societies should try to obtain accurate market information through appropriate print and electronic media. They should make use of Internet and other such modern sources of information on various aspects of marketing.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

- Marketing finance of these fisheries co-operative societies have been largely met through bank borrowings. The capital resources of these societies should be enlarged through increased membership and share capital. There is need for reducing the magnitude of loan financing through NCDC etc.

- Marketing costs to needs to be optimized by reducing the cost of distribution through intermediaries. Cost of marketing could be further reduced through owning different marketing facilities instead of hiring the services of private agencies in matters of storage transport and processing.

- Fisheries co-operatives should try to meet the credit needs of the fishermen on a much larger sale and prevent
them from going in for high cost borrowings from money lenders and other private agencies.

➢ The fisheries co-operative societies have to form business alliance with other co-operatives and private companies so as to leverage operational synergy, collaboration, sole selling agency agreements forming subsidiary and joint venture companies.

➢ There should be uniformity in the presentation of the annual reports of the societies. The proper and clear method of accounting is to be followed in the maintenance of records. The annual reports should give at least five years progress report in respect of membership, paid up share capital, loans, overdue, profit and loss account, audit class. This will enable the member as well as the general public to know the working of the societies.

➢ Societies have to have most efficient managers with requisite marketing expertise, financial and professional skills for the toughest competition and with ingenuity and commitment. It has to ensure necessary human resource, physical resource, knowledge resource and in infrastructure and competitive both in terms of cost and quality and also they are effectively and efficiently deployed.
The fisheries co-operative societies have to develop expertise in managing the politico-legal environment. They will have to adopt the co-operative laws and adopt model act to ensure that co-operatives compete with the private sector in a playing ground as much as commercial organization. The apex institutions of fisheries and KSFDC have to play a strong role in it.

➢ The fisheries co-operative societies should employ the educated and unemployed youths that can contribute significantly in terms of both funds and skill. They should be encouraged in all segments of fisheries and especially in the segment of capital and scientific skills.

➢ The working capital fund should be increased so as to increase the sales. That will lead to the increase in the profitability.

➢ The fisheries co-operative societies should formulate the policies on marketing, welfare activities and financial matters that help to direct in its operations and other activities.

➢ To enhance the sales promotion credit purchase facility is to be provided to members and the amount should be debited to loan account of such members. And they also should be provided incentives in proportion to the values of purchase to improve sales.
The fisheries co-operative societies should give full information regarding the loans duration, rate of interest and loans out-standing to the members of the society.

➢ The fisheries co-operative societies should pay more attention to the recreational activities and training for the development of entrepreneurship of the employees especially in the field of fish marketing at state level.

➢ The top management of the fisheries co-operative societies should be elected and represented by the well experienced persons about the regional environment and qualified so that they can improve the profitability of the firm. Along with the participation of members the participation of management in seminars and conferences may be encouraged.

➢ The fisheries co-operative societies and its administration should adopt a consultancy service in respect of technology, planning, market trend etc. The implied, technological environment and economic characteristics of fishery give a chance to the co-operatives and federation to position them.

➢ The fisheries co-operative societies have to see diversity and the idle capacity of their activities such as indulging in ice factory cold storage, boat building yards, fleet of refrigerated trucks to transport of perishable items and also supply of subsidisal fuel, oil and food materials.
It is essential to fix the reasonable prices for the fishes in consultancy with the members or fishermen in the field of fish marketing.

The government should frame heir policies as per national and help the weaker sections mainly depending on the fishing occupation to increase their standard of living.

In order to increase marine landings, proper steps must be undertaken for utilizing the vast marine fish potential in India.

As traditional marine fishery sector has been neglected in India, it is necessary to give more emphasis for the growth of this sector as a complementary to mechanized sector.

Fish provides a rich source of high quality protein in addition to inorganic substances and vitamins, essential for human body. However, per capita consumption of fish in India is only 3.5 kg. Hence, steps must be undertaken to diversify fish products and popularize fish consumption in India.

In International market, the marine products export of India has been facing complaint on and often because of its quality. Hence, upgrading the quality of the final product is very necessary for healthy and continuous development of export.
In Karnataka, it is necessary to have a proper fisheries policy, to regulate the fishing by outsiders with a view to protecting the interest of fishermen in the state. Even within a district there is need for appropriate regulatory measures to prevent fishing by fishermen from other districts.

Proper plans and efforts must be made for the exploitation of fisheries potential in the remaining continental shelf of Karnataka.

Measures must be undertaken for the efficient utilization of fish during the bumper catch to prevent the loss to the fishermen.

In U.K. District, efforts must be made for the improvement of fishing implements harbour facilities, efficient marketing system and for strengthening other infrastructural facilities.

Construction of small fish landing centers for the benefit of traditional fishermen is necessary in the district.

For the welfare of the fishermen, suitable welfare schemes must be implemented in the district.

The government should help the fishermen to have proper accommodation, supply of drinking water and toilet facility which are urgently necessary to them.
Proper guidance is necessary to the fishermen to spend their income more economically, to encourage the habit of thrift among them and also for proper repayment of their loan installments. This can be done through NGO’s or any other agencies.

Alcoholism has been rampant among the fishermen and that has been one of the main causes for their sufferings. Thus, there is an emergent need to take remedial steps to rehabilitable them through persuasive and educative means.

SUGGESTIONS TO STRENGTHEN PFCSs:

Secretaries of PFCS have suggested that both agriculture and fisheries, come under primary sector, therefore fisheries co-operative societies, should be treated on par with the agricultural co-operative societies in extending government assistance.

Respondents coming under the category of mechanized boats and traditional boats reported that they need financial assistance varying from Rs.50,000 to Rs.1,50,000 for repairs and maintaince. Traditional boat operators need financial assistance, ranging from Rs.7,000 to Rs.10,000 for the ame purpose. As PFCS are not able to meet their requirements, they depend on merchants. The NABARD should come to the rescue, of PFCS through apex bodies as is in the case of
agriculture. The primary fisheries co-operative societies should evolve a scheme of credit linked with marketing so that fishery requisite loan sanctioned is recovered, without any difficulty.

✓ The apex bodies with the assistance of government should provide management and marketing training to the staff of PFCS.

✓ Secretaries, of PFCS have suggested that permanent staff should be appointed in PFCS paying reasonable salary. So that they are accountable both to management and government.

✓ The PFCS affiliated to federations should act as agents to regulate and administer fisheries at village level.

✓ When, once fishing right to co-operative is given, federation can involve, PFCS in preservation and marketing of high commercial value species viz., Prawns in the international market.

✓ Secretaries, of PFCS have suggested that there should be a marketing committee or any other organization, to regulate marketing in the absence of which, merchant himself defines the grade quality and price for a given lot of fish.
In order to make the market more competitive as well as to introduce fair trade practice, following suggestions are made;

❖ Statutory provisions must be made to introduce standard weights and measurements.
❖ Fish markets must be regulated on the pattern of agricultural market and the auction system must be made compulsory for the disposal at the landing center.
❖ Standard grading practices must be evolved and enforced through market committees on the lines of Agricultural markets.
SAMPLE FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Harikantra Karvi Fisheries Co-operative Society, Karwar.

Karwar Mahila Fisheries Co-operative Society, Baithkol, Karwar

Belekeri Fisheries Co-operative Society, Belekeri, Ankola.
Tadri Fisheries Co-operative Society, Tadri, Kumta.

Kumta Fisheries Co-operative Society, Kumta.

Belkonda Fisheries Co-operative Society, Honnavar.
Honnavar Mahila Fisheries Co-operative Society, Honnavar.

Alvekodi Fisheries Co-operative Society, Alvekodi, Bhatkal.

Mavinkurve Fisheries Co-operative Society, Bandar, Bhatkal.