

# IMPACT ON INCOME AND LIVELIHOOD OF THE POND FISH FARMERS: THE CASE OF INTEGRATED AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OF RDRS BANGLADESH

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## ABSTRACT

The main focus of the study was to determine the extent of contribution of IADP (Integrated Aquaculture Development Project) in bringing change in income and livelihood status of the respondents. One hundred five respondents were randomly selected by using two-stage stratified sampling technique. Data were collected personally by the researcher, compiled and interpreted as per the objectives of the study. The study revealed that a considerable increase was brought about in the total annual income (47 to 62.2 percent), impacts in creating employment opportunities (134 to 366 percent), household consumption (8 to 84 percent), household expenditure (10 to 347 percent), food security and nutritional status of the respondents after participation with RDRS. Most of the respondents of the project were in high livelihood capital building categories in respect to human, natural and social aspects but in the case of financial capital building most of the respondents fell in the medium capital building category. Most of respondents were able to improve their physical capital due to intervention of Integrated Aquaculture Development Project under RDRS Bangladesh. Family size and education level had no significant relationship with their income from fish culture. Loans received for the fish culture of the respondents had strong and positive relationship. Per hectare total cost for large pond fish farmers was the highest which was the highest followed by mini pond. However the highest net margin was came from large pond and followed by mini pond (Tk30,173). As such the large pond fish farmers receive the highest net return than mini pond fanners. On the other hand benefit cost ratio was 1.65 and 1.82 for mini and large pond respectively. The technical efficiency use of inputs in pond fish production of mini pond farmers showed more efficient results than large pond farmers. Four types of problems and constraints in economic, marketing, technical and social were identified in the study area. Economic problems included lack of capital, complexity of loan, high input price. Marketing constraints were related with lack of transportation and price fluctuation. Technical constraints were related with lack of fingerlings, diseases and dry seasons. Social problem was mostly related with theft and interface by others. Several suggestions were put forward by the respondents in order to improve their fish production. Adequate loan supply, deliver their loan through inputs, provide more technical support and inputs availability were emphasized among others as important suggestion to improve pond fish production.