Intergated fish farming (fish-cum–duck culture)

Satyaprakash Pandey, A P Rao and Ramanand Gupta
Narenda Deo University of Agriculture & Technology, India

Integrate farming may be defined as a sequential linkage between two or more agri-related farming activities with one farming as major component. The integrated of fish farming with agriculture and animal husbandry is considered as sustainable farming system, which offers greater efficiency in resource utilization, reduce risk by diversifying crop, provide additional income and food for small scale farming household. Raising ducks over fish ponds fits very well with the fish polyculture system, as the ducks are highly compatible with cultivated fishes. Fish-cum-Duck integration is very common in countries like China, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Russia, & some parts of Indian state like Andhra Pradesh, Odessa, West Bengal, Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka & North-East state like Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram etc. China has a long and rich history of IFF, written records from the first and second centuries BC. Direct as feed to fishes while applied in pond. Wastes in pond break down by microbes into organic and inorganic fraction and into plankton as live and natural feed to fishes. Pond silt as fertilizer for agriculture crops, horticulture and floriculture, pond water into crop field. Fish and ducks are benefitted by their co-existence. The mutual beneficial effect of combined fish culture and duck raising. Decreases the input cost (60%) on fish culture operation. The droppings of ducks act as a substitute to fish feed and pond fertilizers. Duck consume juveniles frogs, snails, dragonfly & tadpoles, thus making a safe environment for fish. The excreta goes directly to the ponds contain essential nutrients Nitrogen & phosphorus stimulating natural fish food organism. Duck also act as bio aerator. Loosen pond bottom with their dabbling, and release nutrients for pond productivity. Proper fish-cum-duck farming need of pond management and duck husbandry practices.

Satyamammalia@rediffmail.com

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