Aqua One Center

An ICT Enabled Aquaculture Support Service

NFDB promotes, support and pursue dissemination activities through a network of "Aqua One Centers (AOCs)" at different strategic locations across the country. The AOCs would play a key role as an interface between NFDB and aquaculture technology users.

Concept: The AOC will provide Information & Communication Technology (ICT)-enabled Aquaculture Support Service, disseminate proven technologies and innovations and facilitate their wider adoption by registered fish farmers thereby facilitating the sector's overall growth.

Aim and Objectives

- ✓ Establishing an aquaculture technology delivery system.
- ✓ Setting up Aquaculture units chosen by beneficiaries.
- ✓ Training beneficiaries in the know-how and better management practices.
- ✓ Up-scaling innovative and proven technologies through dissemination.

ICT Enabled Aquaculture Support Service

- ✓ Provide technologies for Pond Culture, Cage Culture in Reservoirs, Culture-based-Capture Fisheries in Wetlands, Recirculation Aquaculture System (RAS), Integrated Farming, etc.
- ✓ Better Management Practices (BMPs) including inputs management.
- ✓ Data management.
- ✓ Setup and manage Water Quality, Fish Health Laboratory Services.
- ✓ Advisory services with reference to life cycle of species cultured, water quality, growth, health, disease diagnosis.
- ✓ Support for setting up Disease Diagnostic Labs, Surveillance, etc.
- ✓ Establish an e-traceability system.

Probable Unit Cost & Pattern of Assistance

Unit cost of establishing 'Aqua One Center' is Rs. 20.00 lakh, including consumables and manpower support for one year.

For Govt. Fisheries Institutes:

i) In General States 50% of unit cost with a ceiling of Rs. 10.00 lakh/unit as subsidy

ii) For North East/Hilly States 80% of unit cost with a ceiling of Rs.16.00 lakh/unit as subsidy

For States/ UTs

Project Cost Sharing Pattern (in Rs.)					
Region & Category of Beneficiary	**Category**	**Unit Cost**	**%**	**NFDB Share**	**Beneficiary Share**
Other States	Gen	20,00,000	24	4,80,000	15,20,000
	SC/ST/ Women	20,00,000	36	7,20,000	12,8,000
North East & Hilly States	Gen	20,00,000	36	7,20,000	12,80,000
	SC/ST/ Women	20,00,000	54	10,80,000	9,20,000
Union Territories	Gen	20,00,000	40	8,00,000	12,00,000
	SC/ST/ Women	20,00,000	60	12,00,000	8,00,000

Components of AOC Unit

Sl. No.	Components / Items
1	Laboratory Equipment for Water & Soil Testing and Fish Health Management
2	Accessories, Furniture, Interior Design, etc.
3	ICT Tools and its management
4	Two-Wheeler and Field Kits
5	Manpower (Field Coordinator/ Sales Coordinator/ Lab Clinician/ Expert Service)
6	Recurring Expenses (Maintenance costs, Travel costs etc.)

Location of AOC Unit

AOC Unit would be established in a strategic location, preferably in a fish seed production and farming hub, having road connectivity, approachability, better conveyance, etc. to facilitate visit of farmers to AOC unit for interaction and periodic visit of AOC staff to the field.

Training Programme

A four-week professional skill development course on "*Aqua Clinics & Aquapreneurship Development Programme (AC&ADP)*", sponsored by the NFDB is being organized by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) through 10 Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) across the country, to train prospective entrepreneurs to establish and manage Aqua-One Centers (AOCs).

Eligibility

Agencies/Firms/Individual Entrepreneurs qualified in EoI process of NFDB who are having necessary experience in setting up of centers for providing aquaculture support services like, Pond Monitoring, Input Management, Information Support, Data Management, Advisory Services, Managing Fish Health Laboratory, etc., can apply for this assistance.

Also, Fisheries Professionals, qualified Lab Technicians and Individuals who undergo the AC&ADP Training would be eligible to submit application and seek financial assistance to establish an AOC Unit at any suitable location.

Services Offered by AOC

Services for the establishment of Aquaculture Units, adoption of new/innovative technologies will be provided by AOCs as per the requirement of Aquaculture system adopted, such as cage culture, pen culture, RAS, etc. A nominal fee would be charged to the fish farmer for the services rendered.

The fee/charges collected for various types of services offered, for example, to Fish Seed Rearing Farmers and Fish Growout Farmers are as follows:

AOC Service Charge details for Fish Seed Rearing & Growout Farmer					
Service	**Rate (Rs.)**	**Minimum Visits per Pond (No.)**		**Eligible Amount per Pond (Rs.)**	
		Seed Growers	**Growout Farmers**	**Seed Growers**	**Growout Farmers**
Registration	**50**	1	1	50	50
Growth monitoring through biomass sampling & advisory	**100**	6	12	600	1,200
Health Monitoring & advisory	**50**	6	12	300	600
Water & Soil Quality (10 parameters) & advisory	**150**	6	12	900	1,800
Total		**19**	**37**	**1,850**	**3,650**

Benefits and Outcome of AOC Units

- ✓ Enrolment of network hatcheries, seed growers and farmers.
- ✓ Supply of inputs like seed, feed & other inputs to farmers.
- ✓ Pond management and monitoring that includes water quality analysis, growth and health monitoring.
- ✓ Sampling for a passive system of disease surveillance to screen the notifiable diseases.
- ✓ ICT enabled advisory services related to inputs, better management practices and technologies, pond and fish health management, training and other related activities through ICT service
- ✓ Facilitate identification and mitigation of issues/ hurdles/ problems faced midway by hatcheries, seed growers and fish farmers at ground level and could also throw up new challenges to be addressed while promoting adoption of improved fish varieties, technologies, processes, approaches.
- ✓ Documentation of technology adopted and data management.
- ✓ Farmers would be able to adopt new technologies and upscale.

Summary

The major focus of NFDB is on facilitating sector development in line with the technological advancement and adoption by way of promoting new technologies and practices to suit local resources & conditions on a continued basis.

The AOCs would be deployed at any type of water resource where fishers and fish farmers are engaged in clusters.

A network of hatcheries producing quality seed of improved varieties, seed growers and growout farmers, suppliers of inputs such as quality feed, fertilizers, chemicals, etc., would be established by the AOCs.

Subsidy would be provided for one cycle/crop and the costs would be shared between the fish farmers and NFDB.

Support services would include quality seed stocking in pond/cage/pen, feed management, growth monitoring, health management, disease diagnosis, data collection and documentation of technology adopted, crop insurance, etc.

The overall objective is to facilitate adoption of proven technologies paving the way for up-scaling and multiplier effect to achieve the targeted production of 15 MMT fish production in the country by 2020.

Contact for further information:
National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)
(Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India), "Fish Building", Pillar No: 235, PVNR Expressway, Hyderabad-500052
Website: http://nfdb.gov.in, Email: info.nfdb@gov.in