International Journal of Applied Research
Journal HP: www.intjar.com, ISSN: 2411-6610

Cost benefit analysis of aquaculture in northern part of Bangladesh

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history

Accepted 25 June 2017
Online release 30 June 2017

Keyword

Aquaculture, CBR, Cost, Income, Northern Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted for a period of five months (July 2016 to October 2016). Northern Bangladesh has a great potential for aquaculture development. Farmers in this region practice aquaculture in many patterns. The study investigated the production economics and profitability of aquaculture practicing in Northern Bangladesh. The study shows aquaculture in Northern Bangladesh is feasible and profitable with a cost-benefit ratio of 1:0.50 for commercial fish culture. The per hectare total cost of production of commercial fish culture are BDT 1, 58,930 and the per hectare net returns of commercial fish culture, BDT 2, 44,075. However, the farmers made the highest profit from commercial fish culture. These factors are directly or jointly responsible for influencing the per hectare net returns of all types of aquaculture. The sensitivity analysis shows that the variable costs including cost of fertilizers, fish feeds and fish seeds are the main factors affecting profitability.

Introduction

Aquaculture is important for both in terms of its contribution to the economy, as well as in the nutrition of people. It also creates a great opportunity of employment in Bangladesh. As capture fisheries are under considerable pressure and their production is either stagnant or declining, the supply of fish to meet the increased demand of overgrowing population can be sourced through aquaculture. In general, undrainable pond is characterized by its diversified spatio-trophic environment comprising of various natural fish food organisms (Phytoplankton, Zooplankton, Periphyton, Macrophytes, Benthos and detritus) at different strata of pond water column as well as in the bottom. Selection of species in polyculture is thus very important. There should be a compatible combination of species with diversified feeding habit that should include planktivorous surface/column feeders to benthic/detritivorous bottom feeders as well as omnivorous to macrovegetation feeding fish species. The possibilities of increasing fish production per unit area, through polyculture, are considerable, when compared with monoculture system of fish. Different species combination in polyculture system effectively contributes also to improve the pond environment. Algal blooming is common in most tropical manure fed ponds. By stocking phytoplanktophagus Silver carp in appropriate density certain algal blooming can be controlled. Grass carp on the other hand keeps the macrophyte abundance under control due to its macrovegetation feeding habit and it adds increased amount of partially digested excreta which becomes the feed for the bottom dweller coprofagous common carp. The bottom dwelling mrigal, common/mirror carp help re-suspension of bottom nutrients to water while stirring the bottom mud in search of food. Such an exercise of bottom dwellers also aerates the bottom sediment. All these facts suggest that polyculture is the most suitable proposition for fish culture in undrainable tropical ponds.

Actually the development of aquaculture production technology is a continuous process. System approach should be addressed in education and research process so that we can find the need or problem of rural farmers and thereby suggest for appropriate aquaculture technology.

Materials and methods

Study area

The present study was conducted in Kaunia Upazilla under the Rangpur district of Bangladesh for a period of four months (July 2016 to October 2016).

Data collection

During the study data were collected by applying survey method and interview method. From the selected pond, data were collected through the direct inspection of this pond using a standard questionnaire. The individuals were selected for face to face interviews using a structured questionnaire.

Cost-benefit analysis

The total expenditure during the culture period (includes fixed and variable costs are summation) and the total income from fish productions were recorded, finally the total expenditure was subtracting from the total incomes and got the benefit.

$$\text{Specific Growth Rate (SGR \%)} = \frac{\text{Log}W_2 - \text{Log}W_1}{T_2 - T_1} \times 100$$

Where, W_2 = Weight of fish at time T_2
W_1 = Weight of fish at time T_1
$T_2 - T_1$ = Culture period

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Results and discussion

Pond management

Pre-stocking management

The selected pond was in good condition where communication access, water supply and other aquaculture facilities were available. In the study pond, the dyke was found in good condition. There are less aquatic weeds are found; generally three types of aquatic weeds were found in the study pond including Colocasia *esculenta, Enhydras sp.,* and *Marsileaquadri folia.* The farmer removed the aquatic weeds manually. The farmer removed predatory and unwanted fish species by frequent netting and used plant origin chemical origin poison i.e. Rotenon and Phostoxin tablet respectively. Total amount of poison is 6 Kg. for 100 decimal. In the study pond, the used limes mainly lime stone at the time of the pond preparation. Application rate is 1 kg/decimal. Total amount of limestone is 100 Kg. The method of lime application was in diluted form. The farmer used both organic (cow dung) and inorganic (Urea and T.S.P.) fertilizers. The application method of fertilizer; inorganic fertilizer (in diluted form) is applied by throwing and organic fertilizer is transferred into sacks and placed them under the pond water with the help of bamboo poles or in diluted form.

Stocking management

Generally poly culture system was practiced in the study pond. The farmer selected those fish species, which have faster growth, good market demand and more social acceptability. The selected fish species and namely; Rui (*Lebeo rohita*), Catla (*Catla catla*), Mrigal (*Cirrhinus mrigala*), as native species and Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio var. communis*), Grass carp (*Ctenopharynogodon idella*), Rajputi *(Puntius gonionotus)* and Monosex telapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) as exotic species. The farmer collected fish seeds from two major sources for culture. These are govt. and private hatchery. Size of the stocked species found to be varied form50g to 100g. During the release of fry, the farmer did not consider the quality of fry, proper technique of fry release and the rate of stocking density is 68 fishes/1decimal. And the total number of stocked fish was 6750 (for 100 decimal).

Post-stocking management

The farmer in the study pond monitored his pond regularly. He monitored his pond to observe the watercolor, abundance of food, growth performance of the fry and to prevent pouching. The farmer did not applied lime at the time of post-stocking management but applied both organic and inorganic fertilizers into his pond to increase the primary productivity. The farmer practiced regular feeding for his cultured species and used mainly high cost fish feeds and low cost feeds also used as supplementary feeds like mustard oil cake. The farmer in the study pond practiced Sampling. Partial harvesting was found as most common harvesting technique in the study pond. The farmer used kheplajal (Cast net) and angling to partial harvest for his household consumption. In the study area there are less stealing tendency although to protect fishes from stealing the operator used bamboo poles. At the end of the culture period, the farmer did final harvesting. Final harvesting was carried out by using seine net. After four months the total production of the pond is 2207.5 kg.

Cost-benefit analysis

The total cost, benefit and CBR (%) was found as 1:0.50, respectively. Cost benefit analysis of the studied pond (100 decimal).

Table 1: Pre-stocking management cost

Inputs	Amount (kg/ 100 deci.)	Unit price (Tk.)	Cost (Tk.)
Pond leased value		30000 (Per yr./100 deci.)	15000
Poisoning	6	340	2000
Liming	100	10	1000
Fertilizers			
I. Cow dung	300	1	300
II. Urea	50	12	600
III. T.S.P.	25	24	600
Total			19,500

Table 2: Stocking management cost

Inputs	Amount (No.) (for 100 deci.)	Unit price (Tk.)	Cost (Tk.)
Fish seed stocking			
I. Catla	200	6	1200
II. Silver carp	400	4	1600
III. Grass carp	50	7	350
IV. Mrigal	300	5	1500
V. Carpio	200	7	1400
VI. Rui	500	6	3000
VII. Raj puti	100	8	800
VIII. Monosextelapia	5000	1	5000
Fry transportation			1000
Total			15850

[Seed size: Mono sex telapia 10-30g and others 50-100 g]

Table 3: Post-stocking management cost

Inputs	Amount (Kg./100 deci. /4 months)	Unit price (Tk.)	Cost (Tk.)
Feeding			
I. Fish feed	3000	24	72000
II. Mustard oil cake	1800	25	45000
Fertilizers			

I. Cow dung	6400	1	6400
II. Urea	80	10	800
III. T.S.P.	40	22	880
Netting for harvesting for marketing (10 times)			2000
Transpiration for marketing (10 times)			1500
Labour (1 person)			3000
Others			2000
Total 1,33,580			
Grand total 1,68,930			

Table 4: Total income after fish sale

Inputs	Amount (Kg.)	Unit price (Tk.)	Income (Tk.)
Catla	150 (750g/fish)	120	18000
Silver carp	160 (400g/fish)	70	11200
Grass carp	37.5 (750g/fish)	90	3375
Mrigal	75 (250g/fish)	100	7500
Caripo	150 (750g/fish)	120	18000
Rui	125 (250g/fish)	120	15000
Rajputi	10 (100g/fish)	100	1000
Monosextelapia	1500 (300g/fish)	120	1,80,000
Total 2,54,075			

Benefit = Total income-Total cost
= 244075-158930
= 85145
Cost benefit Ratio (CBR %) = Total cost **:** Benefit= 158930: 85145 = 1: 0.50
CBR (%) = 1:0.50 Tk. that means, 0.50 Tk. came from per 1.00 Tk.

Conclusion

Fisheries sector has great contribution in livelihood development and nutrition for rural people of Bangladesh. But the immense potential of this sector has remained largely unutilized due to ignorance of such potential resources and lack of technical knowledge in this respect in Bangladesh, aquaculture was developed mainly as a rural, act integrated into existing farming system. The farmer in the study pond followed more or less semi-intensive fish culture system. The fish production of carp culture could be increased in sustainable way, if the fish farmer follow the proper semi-intensive fish culture management techniques and provide with better culture technique in need based approach. The farmer took necessary steps in the pre-stocking, stocking and post-stocking stage. The pond fish culture was reported mainly with three native and five exotic species. Due to high growth rate and suitable environment, exotic fishes like monosex tilapia, silver carp and common carp occupied the major culture species the study pond. No native small species was cultured due to its less growth and seed unavailability. Water quality of the study pond was found as suitable for fish culture. The natural fish food organisms were observed in sufficient level that's why the production of the study pond was desired to the farmer.

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