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Seminar-II

Blue Economy: An Overview

Synopsis

Ocean, marine and coastal resources represent a vital link between every region of the globe. In a myriad of ways they affect the lives of every person on the planet. During Rio+20, coastal and island developing countries gave a definitive voice to the major role that oceans have to play in all of our futures. It was a discussion which initiated exploration of how concepts and objectives of a Green Economy could be applied to the unique and irreplaceable role of marine and coastal ecosystems i.e. the 'Blue Economy'.

A country like India which has a coastline of 7500 km and home to so many islands and ports which provides great opportunity for India in the blue economy. Over 95 per cent of the trade in India is transported through sea both national and international. Capable to absorb 30 per cent of global carbon emission. Four per cent of GDP is earned from oceans. It can aid food supply and communicate new means for energy, protein based diet, deep sea deposit, chemicals, security and drugs. Blue wealth through sustainable utilization of oceans can generate the economy for the world and open new opportunities, innovation and jobs for people. Every country has its own strategies and framework for blue economy development.

With this background, the current seminar has been conceptualized with the following objectives:

1. To understand the concept of blue economy.
2. To know the government initiatives in promoting blue economy
3. To review the related research studies.

Concept of Blue Economy

According to the World Bank, the blue economy is defined as "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem".

Various components include (a) Fisheries and Aquaculture (b) Marine tourism (c) Marine transport (d) Seawater desalination (e) Marine biotechnology (f) Deep sea mining (g) Marine constructions (h) Renewable energy

Government initiatives in promoting the blue economy

Deep Ocean Mission (To undertake the deep ocean survey and exploration), India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy (Intended to manage the resources in the oceans in a

sustainable manner), O-SMART Scheme (To promote a suite of ocean information services and technology for sustainable harnessing the ocean resources), Sagarmala Project (To promote port-led development in India), Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (To enhance climate resilience of India's coastal communities)

Role of extension organisation

Transfer of Innovative technology application methods, Provide information support to fishermen about prices, types and availability of known and new fishing inputs, Advising and educating fishermen in resource conservation and responsible fishing practice, Facilitating the development of fishermen organization to promote collective action, Create awareness about life saving equipments, communication devices and survival strategies, Capacity development of various actors in the value chain

Research studies

Dineshbabu *et al.* (2017) revealed that overall mean of Farmer Sustainability Index (FSI) for all the six practices from cage fabrication to harvest was 77.95, indicating a relatively high value of Farmer Sustainability Index for adoption of capture based aquaculture practices by traditional fishermen.

Ratre *et al.* (2021) reported that 78.33 per cent male and 66.66 per cent female fish farmers were contacting male opinion leaders whereas, 33.33 per cent and 21.66 per cent female and male farmers were contacting female opinion leaders.

Conclusion

The world is looking towards oceans for a number of new emerging sectors and opportunities, but the success of these new sectors, in addition to traditional marine employment, would solely depend on oceans health and long-term sustainability of their fragile ecosystems for which it is important to boost blue economy and deduce the right plan of action to create the right balance between economy and environment.

References

- DINESHBABU, A.P., THOMAS, S., LEKSHMI, P.S.S. AND SASIKUMAR, G., 2017, Adoption of sustainable capture based aquaculture practices by traditional fishermen of Karnataka. *Indian Journal of Fisheries*, **59**(1):49-52.
- RATRE, D., OJHA, S.N., SHARMA, A., RAMASUBRAMANIAN, V. AND YADAV, R., 2021, Relationship between Gender and Opinion Leadership among the Fish Farmers of Chhattisgarh. *Indian Journal of Extension Education*, **57**(4): 93-96.