

FISHERIES: A CASE STUDY OF BANGLADESH



Manzil Pakistan is a national non-profit think tank dedicated to developing and advocating public policy that contributes to the development of Pakistan. Our aim is to shape Pakistan to a country where policies on decisions of national interest are driven by non-partisan strategic thinking and implemented through consensus in the best interest of the people of Pakistan.

FISHERIES: A CASE STUDY OF BANGLADESH

Hilsa (Palla) in Bangladesh

- A local fish processing plant (Virgo Fish and Agro Process) will market the hilsa products (dried fish in soup and noodles) formulated by researchers at the Bangladesh Agricultural University.
- Research was taken under Department of Fisheries and World Fish project funded by the USAID.
- The country's Hilsa (locally called Ilish) fish production has increased by around 150% in last 15 years, As a result, Hilsa production increased from 199,032 tons in 2002-03 to 496,417 tons in 2016-17.

Bangladesh's Fisheries Statistics

- Bangladesh is one of the world's leading fish producing countries with a total production of 41.34 lakh MT, where aquaculture contributes 56.44 percent to total production.
- Last 10 years average growth performance of this sector is almost 5.43 percent.
- Government is trying to sustain this growth performance, which eventually ensures to achieve the projected production target of 4.55 million MT by 2020-21.
- Bangladesh has recorded surplus fish production with an annual output of 41.34 lakh MT against a demand of 40.50 lakh MT in 2016-17.
- The target of fish production was 40.50 lakh MT in 2016-17, but it crossed the target by producing 41.34 lakh MT fish in Bangladesh.
- About 12.00 percent of the country's total fish production comes from hilsa. As a result, hilsa production increased from 1.99 lakh MT in 2003- 04 to 4.96 lakh MT in 2016-17.
- The growth rate of hilsa production is 25.69 percent.
- Hilsa (called Palla in Sindh) was last year **recognised as geographical indication (GI) product of Bangladesh** by the Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, a local patent authority.

INLAND WATERS CAPTURE PRODUCTION: MAJOR PRODUCER COUNTRIES-

Bangladesh ranks 3rd¹

	Production (tonnes)			% Variation		Variation, 2015 to 2016 (tonnes)
	Average 2005–2014	2015	2016	2005–2014 (average) to 2016	2015 to 2016	
Bangladesh						

¹ FAO. 2018. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018 - Meeting the sustainable development goals. Rome. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. (Page 16)

	1,018,987	1,023,991	1,048,242	2.9		2.4	24,251
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AQUACULTURE FOOD FISH PRODUCTION BY REGION AND SELECTED MAJOR PRODUCERS (thousand tonnes; percentage of world total)²

Bangladesh	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016
Thousand Tonnes	317	657	882	1309	2060	2204
percentage of total world	1.3%	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%	2.7%	2.8%

Summary From Bangladesh's case: They identified the USP (Unique Selling Product), supported it by law and policy provisions (giving it GI status) and, invested in research & development (by funding research project).

Hilsa (Palla) in Pakistan

- Whereas Pakistan's seafood export value stood at \$393.662 million off 155,091 tons in 2016-17. However, the country's fisheries exports declined 7.35 percent in value to \$11.837 million tons in July 2018 from \$12.776 million in the same month last fiscal. The quantity was down 2.87 percent to 5,452 tons from 5,613 tons.
- In recent decades however, **palla numbers have fallen in Sindh**, hence it has led to an increase in imports from Iran. One reason for the declining production of palla is attributed to the use of banned nets that contain strings made of iron which injure the fish, another cause for is the inconsistent flows of water in the River Indus.

Geographical Indication (GI) in Pakistan

- GI tag protects the legal rights of agricultural, manufactured and natural goods in a specific geographical territory, according to the World Trade Organization.
- Member countries of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) need to give protection to GIs under Article 22-24 of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) agreement.
- Unless Pakistan provides GI protection, it cannot obtain the same for its own goods in other countries that have the GI Law.
- State-owned Intellectual Property Organisation Pakistan drafted Geographical Indication Bill 2016 to protect the products, originating from a specific area, whose quality or reputation is attributable to its place of origin. Currently, geographical indications are being protected under collective mark system of Trademark Ordinance, 2001.

² FAO. 2018. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018 - Meeting the sustainable development goals. Rome. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. (Page 27)

