

4. Fisheries Sector- Economy

Fish production has increased to 197.75 lakh tonnes in FY 2024-25 from 95.79 lakh tonnes fish production in FY 2013-14 increasing a significant 106%. India's fisheries sector has witnessed a remarkable 106% growth in production over the last decade, securing its position as the second-largest global fish producer. This expansion is supported by robust government initiatives like PMMSY and the recent EEZ Sustainable Harnessing Rules, 2025, aimed at modernizing infrastructure and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for millions.

Context- Sectoral Growth

Significant Expansion- India's fisheries and aquaculture sector has witnessed massive growth over the last decade.

Production Statistics

- 1. Fish production has increased by 106%.
- 2. 2013-14- 95.79 lakh tonnes.
- 3. 2024-25- 197.75 lakh tonnes.

1. About the Fisheries Sector

Global Standing

Overall Rank- India is the 2nd largest fish producer globally, contributing approximately 8% to the global fish output.

Aquaculture Ranking- India ranks second in aquaculture production.

Sector Leadership

- a. India leads globally in shrimp production and exports.
- b. India is the second-largest producer in capture fisheries.

Economic Contribution & Livelihood

Employment- The sector provides livelihood opportunities to approximately 3 crore fishers and fish farmers across the country.

Share in GVA (Gross Value Added)

- a. The sector contributes 7.43% to the Agriculture GVA.
- b. Since 2014-15, it has recorded the highest growth amongst all Agriculture and Allied Sectors.

2. Trends in Fish Production

Production Volume- Total production reached 197.75 lakh tonnes in FY 2024-25 (up from 95.79 lakh tonnes in FY 2013-14).

Productivity- Average aquaculture productivity has improved, reaching 4.77 tonnes per hectare.

Seafood Exports (FY 2023-24)

- a. Volume- 16.98 lakh tonnes.
- b. Value- ₹62,408 crore.

Leading States- The key states contributing to this growth include West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Kerala.

3. Comparison- Fisheries vs. Aquaculture

Feature	Fisheries	Aquaculture
Definition	Refers to the capture, processing, and marketing of fish and aquatic organisms from natural water bodies.	Refers to the controlled farming and cultivation of aquatic organisms under managed conditions.
Nature of Activity	Largely extractive; depends on harvesting naturally available fish stocks.	Productive and culture-based; fish are bred, reared, and harvested by humans.

Location	Operates in natural water bodies (Oceans, seas, rivers, lakes, reservoirs).	Practiced in artificial or managed systems (Ponds, tanks, cages, raceways).
----------	---	---

4. Government Schemes and Initiatives

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

Launch Date- September 2020.

Investment- Total outlay of ₹20,050 crore.

Aim- To transform the sector by addressing critical gaps in

- Fish production and productivity.
- Quality and technology.
- Post-harvest infrastructure.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

Objective- Established to create and modernise fisheries infrastructure across both marine and inland sectors.

Focus- Supports the sustainable development of both capture and culture fisheries.

Extension- Originally planned for five years (2018-19 to 2022-23), the scheme has been extended up to 2025-26 to ensure continued infrastructure support.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY)

- Status- Approved in February 2024.
- Nature- A sub-scheme under PMMSY designed to further strengthen the fisheries ecosystem.

Technology and Data-Driven Solutions

Digital Commerce- The government has collaborated with ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce).

Impact- This collaboration aims to onboard 63 Fisheries Startups and Fisheries Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs) to provide them with digital market access.

EEZ Sustainable Harnessing Rules, 2025

- Access- Provides priority fishing access to cooperatives.
- Technology- Introduces the digital ReALCraft Access-Pass for monitoring and access.
- Conservation- Bans destructive fishing practices to protect marine biodiversity.

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)

Launch Context- Launched in the Union Budget 2025-26.

Objectives

- Expand aquaculture activities.
- Improve fishermen's incomes.

Target Impact- Aimed to benefit 1.7 crore farmers.

Source- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2213532®=3&lang=1>