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Original Article**From Pigs to Prosperity: Harminder Singh's Aquaculture Success**

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ABSTRACT

Owner of GS Aujhla Farm Harminder Singh switched from raising pigs to raising fish in 2017 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's obstacles and his son's interest in the latter. His holistic approach to aquaculture makes use of sustainable methods, such as using nutrient rich effluent for crop irrigation and reusing pig dung as fish feed. Harminder oversees a 6 acre farm that is devoted to the cultivation of Rohu fish, a well-known freshwater species in South Asia, with 1 acre set aside for the nursery and 5 acres for adult fish. His business, which is distinguished by effective feed management and treatment of abiotic stress, brings in two lakh rupees per month. In addition to guaranteeing resource efficiency, Harminder's all encompassing farming approach makes him a well liked personality in the aquaculture sector.

Keywords: Aquaculture, Rohu Fish, Feed Management, Abiotic Stress, Sustainable Agriculture, Input Dealers.

INTRODUCTION

Fish farming, often known as aquaculture, is the regulated production of aquatic creatures like fish, shellfish, and seaweed for economic purposes. This business is critical to addressing the rising global demand for seafood, providing a sustainable alternative to overfishing natural water bodies. Aquaculture helps to improve food security by providing a consistent source of protein, particularly in poor countries. Economically, it creates jobs in rural and coastal areas, boosts allied businesses such as feed production and processing, and generates major export earnings. Its significance is growing as wild fish populations fall and environmental concerns drive a shift toward more sustainable food production practices. Harminder Singh, 56years old, living in Talwandi is the owner of GS Aujhla Farm, which he founded in 2017. His father, Gurdial Singh, has played an important role in his life, and the farm symbolizes the values and work ethic passed down through generations. GS Aujhla Farm specializes on fish sales and serves the region's input dealers. Harminder Singh has established a strong name in the aquaculture industry by regularly providing high quality products and services to his clients. His expertise and dedication have established his company as a reputable reputation among local merchants.



Harminder Singh s/o Gurdial Singh (GS Aujhla Farm)

Journey: Harminder Singh began his entrepreneurial adventure in 2017 by starting a pig farm, prompted by his son's interest in rearing pigs. However, the COVID-19 outbreak caused him to change his business strategy. He shifted to fish farming, a more sustainable practice in which pig excrement was recycled as fish feed. This novel technique not only maximized resource efficiency but also decreased waste. Today, Harminder has a 6 acre farm where he grows fish and sells them to input dealers, ensuring that his business is successful and environmentally friendly.

Farm and fish species: Prominent freshwater fish species Rohu is raised by Harminder Singh on a 6 acre fish breeding facility. One acre of this are set aside as a nursery, where young fish are given special care. These young fish are moved to a larger 5 acre pond where they continue to grow until they reach a suitable size. Better control over fish growth is made possible by this procedure, which guarantees an ideal habitat for the fish at every stage of development. By maximizing the use of available space and resources, Harminder's integrated strategy promotes sustainable fish production. One of the most significant and extensively farmed fish species in South Asia, particularly in India, is rohu, also known as *Labeo rohita*. It is an important species in aquaculture and a member of the Cyprinidae family of carps. Rohu has a deep build, with a back that is somewhat arched and a nose that sticks out. It is well suited for pond culture due to its quick development and versatility in different aquatic settings.



Nursery of young fishes (1acre)



Large Fish Pond (5 acre)

Feed management: Fish meal, mustard (sarso) feed, and De-Oiled Cake (DOC) are fed to Harminder Singh's fish according to a regimented feed management plan at a rate of one quintal per day. He is aware of how crucial good feed management is to his fish's continued healthy growth. However, because of the lower temperatures, fish reduce their activity and metabolic needs during the winter, thus feeding is not necessary. The fish are maintained in good health all year round with this seasonal modification that guarantees effective resource use.

Management of abiotic stress: In his fish farming, Harminder Singh uses a holistic strategy to manage abiotic stress. He keeps the pond water at a depth of 5.5 to 6 feet and meticulously controls the temperature and humidity to create the ideal environment for fish health. He utilizes submersible motors and agitators two necessities for maintaining fish vitality to keep the water oxygenated. Toximar, lime, and potassium are used in regular pond cleaning procedures to help maintain the water's quality and cleanse it.

Harminder smartly uses the water used for washing to irrigate instead of throwing it away. This mineral-rich water helps his farm's produce by providing a natural spurt to plant development. This integrated method maximizes efficiency and sustainability in both endeavors by fostering a symbiotic link between fish farming and agriculture in addition to resource conservation.



Agitators

Output: Harminder Singh has established a successful fish farming enterprise, generating an estimated monthly income of 2 lakh rupees from the sale of his fish to input dealers. His path, which started during the COVID-19 epidemic when he switched from raising pigs to raising fish, has blossomed into a lucrative and sustainable business endeavor. The success of Harminder Singh's business has been largely attributed to his thorough approach to feed management, pond maintenance, and water quality control. He oversees his activities across 6 acres of land, keeping a consistent supply of healthy Rohu fish to suit market demand. He has a nursery for young fish and a larger pond for older fish.

SUMMARY

The 56 year old businessman Harminder Singh established GS Aujhla Farm in 2017; his son's curiosity led him to begin with pig raising. He switched to fish farming during the COVID-19 epidemic,

feeding his fish excrement from pigs, which increased resource efficiency and decreased waste. Presently, Harminder runs a 6 acre fish farm with a focus on Rohu, a well known freshwater fish species in South Asia. His farm has five acres dedicated to housing mature fish, while one acre is used as a nursery for young fish. His fish are fed a set diet consisting of De-Oiled Cake, mustard feed, and fish meal; feeding is suspended in the winter because the fish's metabolism is reduced. He uses submersible motors and agitators to maintain the water's depth, temperature, and aeration in order to manage abiotic stress. He also routinely cleans the ponds using Toximar, lime, and potassium. Sustainable agriculture is promoted by re-purposing cleaned waste water for irrigation. Due in large part to his careful attention to feed management, pond maintenance, and water quality control, Harminder's profitable fish farming enterprise brings in an estimated 2 lakh rupees every month. His farm has established a solid reputation for providing input merchants with healthy Rohu fish.