



## *There's always a way - if you're committed: Success story of a poor marginal farmer*

<b>Name:</b>	Sharan Kumar
<b>Address:</b>	Village & post: Ghatera, Tehsil Rampur Maniharan, Distt Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Pincode: 247451
<b>Phone No.:</b>	+91 9058560364
<b>Activity:</b>	President of Matsya Jeevi Sahkari Samiti- Ghatera; Owner of mini RAS along with 4 (14.83 ha) well managed Government leased ponds.
<b>Duration of Establishment:</b>	Involved in aquaculture industry since 1998; formed his own cooperative society in the year 20/03/2008 with registered 29 active members
<b>Total Investment:</b>	4.5 lakh in setup of mini RAS (self)
<b>Current Income:</b>	14-15 lakh/year
<b>Any technologies used</b>	Self- designed aerator cum boat; RAS unit
<b>Total quantity of</b>	60-70 tonnes/year

### *Future Plans*

He wants to set up a feed mill to meet the increased demands of fish feed on his farms. Utilization of locally available ingredients in feed mill to produce quality feed at affordable price can help him to reduce input feed cost and gain extra benefits. He is applying under Entrepreneur model scheme of PMMSY to fulfil his goals and achieve new milestones in aquaculture industry.



### *Background*

Sharan Kumar S/o Dhiru Kumar lives in a small village name Ghatera in Rampur Maniharan Tehsil of District Saharanpur. Sharan is 48 year old fish farmer originally hailed from a very poor family with nominal agricultural land to feed his folks. Being uneducated, he initially started doing jobs related to painting and plumbing but he was not satisfied with the work as the amount he was earning was insufficient for his livelihood and was looking for some alternate job. As he says, the year 1998 was the turning point of his life when he met a fellow fish farmer in the city and was quite impressed by the profit he was gaining in the aquaculture industry. He tried hard and got one small government pond on lease in the same year and began his journey as the small scale aquaculturist. As a beginner he struggled but with the guidance of the state fisheries department and his diligence and will power he learned the basics of fish farming and started his career as fish entrepreneur.

## *Evolution of the beneficiary*

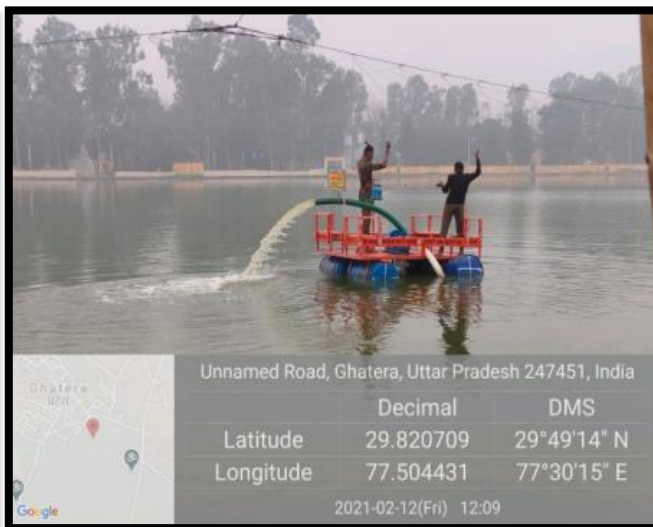
In the year 2008, Sharan Kumar formed his own fisheries cooperative society named Matsya Jeevi Sahkari Samiti Ghatara (20.02.2008) with total registered 29 members actively engaged in the fish production till then. Today Sharan Kumar's Society has leased four large ponds of total area 14.83 hectare which are scientifically very well managed and taken care of and setting example for other cooperative societies and fish farmers. After being engaged in aquaculture for more than 20 years, he wanted to adopt recent technologies of intensive fish culture system with very limited land area. Department of fisheries, Saharanpur guided him to apply under PMMSY scheme to set-up mini re-circulatory aquaculture system (total project cost 7.5 lakhs) with financial assistance from government in the form of subsidy (3 lakhs i.e., 40% share). He received his both instalments under the PMMSY scheme in the year 2020 and his Mini RAS was completed and inaugurated on Fish Farmer's Day 2021 by DDF and ADF Saharanpur.

He is very hard working and dedicated fish farmer contributing his 100% in the aquaculture industry and also creating awareness among other people to adopt better management practices to gain maximum benefits from government leased ponds. He is also breaking the stigma that the village ponds are difficult to manage due to sewage and industrial effluents inflow by properly taking care of his ponds and continuously monitoring the water quality parameters. Today he is gaining double benefit from both aquaculture ponds and RAS unit with net profit income of Rs. 14-15 lakhs/year and total average fish production of 50 to 60 ton/year and is setting an example of successful fish farmer in the district Saharanpur of Uttar Pradesh.





**Fish farm visit of Sharan Kumar by Deputy Director and Assistant Director Fisheries of district Saharanpur, U.P.**



**Self- designed aerator-cum-boat utilised to regulate oxygen level in pond as well as for monitoring and sampling in pond**



**Harvesting in the fish farm**



**Good quality fish stock ready to reach market**



**Inauguration of the mini RAS under PMMSY scheme on the occasion of Fish Farmer's Day 2021**



**Innovation: Aerator cum boat**