

ORL-EE&P-11**Harnessing Sustainable Restoration of Fishery Ecosystem and Aquatic Biodiversity in Bangladesh: Critical Analysis of The Relevant Policies**

M Zulfikar Rahman*, M Mahfujul Haque, M Abdus Salam, Murad A Farukh, M Asaduzzaman Sarker, and M G Mostofa Amin

Department of Agriculture Extension Education
Bangladesh Agricultural University
Mymensingh-2202, Bangladesh
zulfikar@bau.edu.bd

Policy is a deliberate system of guidelines to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes. A policy is a statement of intent and is implemented as a procedure or protocol. The advantage is that policies provide a framework for consistent decision-making and action. In fact, one of the primary objectives of a policy is to ensure that personnel act in a manner consistent with executive or functional management's expectations. It was expected that the review of existing policy and regulatory framework (legislation and acts) and proposed areas of improvement would enhance the sustainability of inland capture fisheries based on the findings. It was observed that there is a profound nexus among the subsystems in land, water and fisheries ecosystems. In this regard, the selected policies formulated by the concerned authorities are found to be sound and useful. Yet, the analysis of the Policies and Acts reveals some strengths, limitations and ineffectiveness, and lacks inter-cooperation which may be viewed as follows. Alignment of sectorial policies and actions duly emphasized sectorial development but without coordination with other relevant organizations. However, any sector in agriculture claims the integration of multiple actors and their concerted efforts or actions. Almost all the policies lack coordination among stakeholders, but this is really imperative to achieve the functional benefit from the policy formulation. Thus, the concerned ministries and agencies should have integrated ways and means to work together in policy formulation and implementation.

Different concerned policies have been stressing the linkages among the extension, research and academic institutions for the development of effective technologies and their dissemination/ utilization, but the functional link is missing. And, thus, academic institutions (like universities and relevant institutions) should devote to generating and tuning the technologies where the advisory service providers must be linked to the academic/research instructions to keep them abreast of the modern and timely innovations for field utilization. The water bodies run on the land and thus, the management of land falls under the Ministry of Land. But water bodies including rivers and other inland bodies are the base of fish growth and capture. The administration of water bodies remains handicapped when any distinctive initiatives are taken up for water management and fish growth. Even inland water management, in many cases, is bestowed on the inland water management bodies where the fisheries perspectives are rarely considered in policy formulation and implementation. So, the fisheries departments should have the authority to exert some administrative and legal actions as and when deemed necessary. The existing laws of environment and waste management duly considered the environmental protocols for environmental protection and up-gradation, but they lack neat indications of integration of the environment and concerns of water bodies. The future environmental and waste management and use of water body policies must consider the crucial issues between the two spheres. The policies must be developed and materialized for their efficacy considering matters of the two concerns. Additionally, the construction of water establishments should consider fish as a 'crop' and these constructions need to be built in a fish-friendly manner. Alignment of sectorial policies and actions is imperative during policy formulation and implementation of the concerned ministries and agencies. Because, the cross-sectorial issues need joint and concerted planning and efforts for materialization. Linkages among academic, research and advisory services in generating and tuning the technologies for fisheries development.

Legal authorities of the Department of Fisheries should be enacted in exerting some administrative and legal actions as and when deemed necessary. Integrated policies on waste management and inland water use must be developed and materialized for their efficacy considering matters of future environmental and waste management and use of water body policies. Policy support is very much demanding for the construction of fish-friendly water and soil protection structures in a sustainable manner.