

PP-10**Transition from Small-Scale Fisher to Small-Scale Aquaculture Enterprise Pursuit**

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This success story explores the inspiring transformation of Mr. Lal Bahadur Mukhiya, a traditional fisher from Rampura, Nepal, who transitioned from a small-scale fisher into a successful aquaculture entrepreneur. The traditional fishers of Rampura, a village in Nepal's Saptari District, have long relied on small-scale fisheries for food and income. However, despite their generational knowledge of fish behaviour and expertise in handling fish, they faced significant challenges due to increasing population pressures and environmental degradation that caused a significant decline in fish populations, leaving fishers like Lal's father, Satya Narayan Mukhiya, struggling to provide for their families. In response, Lal sought alternative approaches, ultimately embracing aquaculture with support from local experts and a government-led cooperative project promoting sustainable farming practices. With access to resources and knowledge, traditional fishers like Lal can successfully transition into aquaculture, creating sustainable livelihoods and economic growth for themselves and their communities.

Through persistence, Lal established his first fishpond, which soon grew into a thriving business, meeting his family's needs and inspiring other fishers to adopt aquaculture. Enthusiast like Chandan Mukhiya and Upendra Sada followed his lead, helping Rampura evolve into a small aquaculture hub that supported local food security and generated new economic opportunities. Despite its success, this transition came with challenges. Many novice aqua-culturists lack technical knowledge in areas like pond design and fish disease management.

Lal's journey emphasizes the need for proper training and support to help fishers navigate these challenges and succeed in aquaculture. Lal's story highlights the potential for small-scale fishers to adapt and thrive with the right resources and support. It underscores the importance of policies that prioritize education, financial resources, and technical assistance for marginalized fishers, particularly the landless, to foster sustainable economic growth in rural communities.



Figure 1: Small Scale Fisheries (Fishing by Lal Bahadur)



Figure 2: Transition to Small Scale Aquaculture