

PP-20**A Legacy of Growth in Transforming Aquaculture**

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In the lush Terai region of Nepal, my father's journey from a hobbyist in aquaculture to a dedicated practitioner exemplifies the convergence of traditional wisdom and modern techniques. Two decades ago, my father constructed a small pond in our backyard, which has since become a cornerstone of his life and work. That pond was a blend of ancient knowledge and emerging methods, and was not merely an aquaculture project but a dynamic learning environment which has made my father enjoy, uplift his business and make him what he is today 'A dedicated Entrepreneur'. The knowledge gained from this pond not only fueled his passion but also became a vital part of our community's economy. This venture evolved beyond personal interest into a robust enterprise that contributes to local livelihoods.

As a child, I was fortunate to grow up and experience being in close proximity to this aquatic sanctuary where, playing by the pond, feeding fish, and observing their interactions ignited a passion for learning more about fisheries science in me. The COVID-19 lockdown was the time that deepened my interest, as I began exploring fish biology and aquaculture principles more intensively, I began to appreciate the nuances of sustainable aquaculture practices, guided by my father's informal yet profound teachings. Upon completing my high school, I'm pursuing a degree in fisheries science, aiming to integrate practical experience with academic knowledge. This ongoing academic journey is exhilarating and challenging and also it constantly reflects the foundational lessons learned from my father. I am particularly inspired by the idea of using science and technology to enhance sustainable practices, ensuring that aquaculture can thrive while respecting the environment.

Even today I feel connected to the serene pond that inspired me, striving to blend past wisdom with future innovation to honor and advance my father's legacy in the aquaculture field.

