

4. Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

This scheme supports the creation of fisheries infrastructure.

Support for Women:

- Credit-linked assistance for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives
- Development of fish processing, storage, and marketing facilities
- Improved access to modern infrastructure and technologies

5. Skill Development and Training Programs

Various institutions conduct training programs for women in fisheries.

Focus Areas:

- Scientific fish farming practices
- Value addition and fish processing
- Fish drying, packaging, and marketing
- Entrepreneurship development

6. Credit and Insurance Support

Women engaged in fisheries are supported through financial and social security measures.

Key Provisions:

- Easy access to institutional credit through banks and cooperatives
- Coverage under fisheries insurance and accident insurance schemes
- Support for working capital and enterprise development

7. State Government Schemes

State governments implement fisheries development programs tailored to local needs.

Support for Women:

- Higher subsidy rates for women beneficiaries
- Free or subsidized inputs such as fish seed, feed, and equipment
- Training, exposure visits, and marketing support

8. Women-Centric Entrepreneurship Promotion

The Government encourages women to become fisheries entrepreneurs rather than remaining only wage workers.

INTRODUCTION

Women play a vital role in the fisheries sector, particularly in fish processing, marketing, aquaculture, and allied activities. Recognizing their contribution, the Government of India has launched several schemes and programs to promote women's participation, income generation, skill development, and empowerment in fisheries.

1. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

PMMSY is the flagship scheme for the development of the fisheries sector.

Support for Women:

- Priority to women beneficiaries in individual and group-based activities
- Financial assistance for fish vending units, kiosks, cold storage, ice boxes, and fish processing units
- Support for women Self Help Groups (SHGs), cooperatives, and Fish Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs)
- Skill development and training programs exclusively for women

2. National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) Programs

NFDB implements various schemes for capacity building and entrepreneurship development.

Support for Women:

- Skill-oriented training in aquaculture, ornamental fish culture, fish processing, and value addition
- Promotion of women entrepreneurs in fisheries-related enterprises
- Assistance for exposure visits, demonstrations, and awareness programs

3. Support through Self Help Groups (SHGs)

Women SHGs are encouraged to take up fisheries and allied activities.

Key Benefits:

- Financial linkage through banks and microfinance institutions
- Subsidies and revolving funds for fish farming, seed production, and marketing
- Collective marketing and better access to inputs and markets

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Government Support Schemes for Women in Fisheries

संकलन

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Key Interventions:

- Support for start-up units in fish seed production, hatcheries, and ornamental fisheries
- Assistance for women-led micro and small enterprises in fish processing and value addition
- Handholding support for business planning, licensing, and market linkage

9. Value Addition and Post-Harvest Support

Special emphasis is given to post-harvest activities where women have a significant role.

Support Areas:

- Training in hygienic fish handling, grading, and packaging
- Support for preparation of value-added products such as dried fish, pickles, fish cutlets, and ready-to-cook items
- Assistance for branding, labeling, and local marketing

10. Market Access and Livelihood Security

Improving market access is a key objective of government schemes.

Key Provisions:

- Support for women fish vendors through mobile vending carts and insulated boxes
- Development of hygienic fish markets with women-friendly facilities
- Promotion of direct marketing and participation in fairs, exhibitions, and local haats

11. Social Security and Welfare Measures

To ensure safety and stability, women involved in fisheries are covered under various welfare schemes.

Benefits Include:

- Accident and life insurance coverage for fish workers
- Health and safety awareness programs
- Support during fishing ban/lean periods through alternative livelihood activities

12. Climate Resilience and Sustainable Fisheries

Women are encouraged to adopt climate-smart and sustainable fisheries practices.

Focus Areas:

- Training on climate-resilient aquaculture practices
- Promotion of eco-friendly fishing and resource conservation
- Awareness on disaster preparedness and risk management

13. Digital and Institutional Support

Digital tools and institutional mechanisms are being strengthened to benefit women.

Initiatives Include:

- Digital registration of women fish farmers and SHGs
- Access to online training, advisory services, and scheme information
- Strengthening of women cooperatives and producer organizations

Role of Women in Fisheries Development

Women contribute significantly to:

- Fish seed production and aquaculture management
- Processing, preservation, and value addition
- Marketing, retailing, and household nutrition security

Empowering women in fisheries leads to inclusive growth, improved family income, and sustainable development of the fisheries sector.

Impact of Government Support

- Enhanced income and livelihood security for women
- Increased participation of women in fisheries enterprises
- Skill enhancement and entrepreneurship development
- Social and economic empowerment of women

CONCLUSION

Government support schemes have opened new opportunities for women in fisheries by providing financial assistance, training, infrastructure, and market support. Active participation of women in these schemes not only strengthens their livelihoods but also contributes to sustainable fisheries development and rural prosperity.

Way Forward

Greater awareness, capacity building, and institutional support are essential to enhance women's participation in fisheries. Effective implementation of government schemes, combined with community participation, can transform fisheries into a strong livelihood option for women.