

Standardization of fresh water pearl culture technology in Uttar Pradesh

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Received October 7, 2016 and Accepted January 11, 2017

ABSTRACT : Pearl culture is an indigenous system of culturing pearls from common freshwater mussels; *Lamellidens marginalis*, *L. corrianus* and *Parreysia corrugata*. The genera of mussels i.e. *Lamellidens*, *Parreysia* are found in different ponds situated in U.P., M.P., W.B., and Jharkhand. It has also been surveyed that 12 species of these genera distributed in these localities of different districts. But among them 3 common species i.e. *L. marginalis*, *L. corrianus*, *P. corrugata* are being found for fresh water pearl culture. These species have been collected from the ponds and surrounding rivers of the different districts of states through the involvement of men and women of weaker section of the society after paying remuneration depending upon the size of the mussels. A survey has been undertaken in M.P., W.B., Jharkhand and in around Allahabad, Fatehpur, Kausambi, Pratapgarh, Mirzapur and Chitrakoot Districts of Uttar Pradesh for the assessment of the pearl culture resources existing at different ponds of the mentioned districts. Three methods were used viz., Mantle cavity, Mantle tissue and Gonadal method for implantation, Mortality rate, survival of the mussels with pearl formation and its percentage. It has been concluded that mortality (30%-40%) and survivality of mussels (65%-71%) in *L. marginalis* and mortality (27%-30%) and survivality of mussels (63 %-72%) in *L. corrianus* has been observed in the present study during the period of three years.

Key Words: Pearl culture, mussels, mantle cavity, mantle tissue, gonad, implantation, mortality, survivality, design pearls.