

Title: **Rural aquaculture as a means of poverty reduction: Culture-based fisheries in Sri Lanka**

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Abstract: Main objective of this paper is to analysis in what extent culture-based fisheries (CBF) facilitates increase rural income to reduce the poverty gap among the agricultural farming communities associated with village reservoirs in Sri Lanka The present study deals with the economic analysis CBF in 23 successfully harvested village reservoirs in year 2003/2004-culture cycle in five administrative districts of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has emphasised that the fishery sector as a main economic activity into poverty reduction in poverty reduction strategy papers in 2006. As existing village reservoirs are used for CBF development, construction cost is zero. Average total cost per ha in a culture cycle is 22% of the market value of the yield. CBF contributed to reduce the poverty gap by 20% in the communities involve in CBF in Monaragala District where one of the highest poverty levels recorded in Sri Lanka in 2002. Most importantly, CBF is a potential source of animal protein for rural communities leading to reduce consumption cost. Being a strategy of non-consumptive water resource use, and low input aquaculture practice CBF in village reservoirs are considered to be a relatively meaningful tool for poverty reduction of agricultural farmer communities in Sri Lanka.