
An appraisal of the recent developments in the field of culture fisheries reveals that there has been an overall increase of about 20% in world aquaculture production, which was 6 million tonnes/year in 1975 and has been projected to reach up to 75 million tonnes/year by the end of 1985. Since 1970, there has been a significant increase in the magnitude of efforts on research and development in this area of vast potentials and it deserved an assessment by all those scientists, entrepreneurs, government agencies and financial institutions, involved in these development efforts.

The book under review includes a comprehensive account of the proceedings of FAO sponsored technical conference on aquaculture, held at Kyoto, Japan, from 26th May to 2nd June, 1976. The main objective of this important conference was to synthesize on a global basis the experience, so far gained in the development of aquaculture, including the improvement of natural resources, reviewing the state of technology related to different aquaculture methods and to identify areas in which research and development efforts should be concentrated in the next few years. The deliberations of the Kyoto conference also laid special emphasis on formulating a strategy for rapid expansion and intensification of the aquaculture industry with specific reference to social, legal and economic needs.

This international assembly was attended by 600 scientists, technicians, administrators, entrepreneurs, and financiers, representing government, academies and private institutions from all over the world. Though 120 technical papers were presented for discussion, the proceedings under review, include the full text of 117 papers.

The main topics included under ten chapters are: state of art and prospects; methods of experimental and commercial culture of algae, seaweeds, crustaceans, molluscs and finfishes; diseases, mortalities and control in aquaculture practices; integration of fish farming with agriculture and animal production like poultry, duck rearing and pig raising; farming in raceways, cages, enclosures, recirculating water and recycled wastes; nutritional requirements and development of balanced diet; genetical improvement in cultivable species; artificial recruitment and transplantation; legal, social and economic aspects; problems of vertically integrated aquaculture systems; strategies for development etc. Thus, the contents encompass possibly all the relevant aspects of limno, coastal and mariculture in tropical, semi tropical and temperate waters.

The contents are further authenticated by a prologue incorporating the recommendations (Declaration of Kyoto Conference) towards the future plan of action for the development of world aquaculture. The presentation of matter under each subject is appropriately illustrated. However, a glaring omission is the non-inclusion of discussion (questions and answers) under respective technical papers.
A careful reading of the book, besides appraising the reader about the vast potentials of aquaculture, brings out the most pertinent point about the future development of fish farming. Though the aquaculture, as a new area of industrial growth has a unique potential contribution to make for the enhancement and maintenance of wild aquatic stocks for generating additional food resources, but the biggest constraint is the lack of public interest, which has a deterrent effect on the desired growth of this rural industry. Hence, unless it receives the fullest support by national authorities towards integration into comprehensive renewable resource, the attainment of fullest potentials cannot fully be achieved, very realistic and enlightening recommendation, indeed.

The book, thus is a valuable addition to the portals of literature in aquaculture and hopefully, will provide information and inspiration to all the interested ones.

—A. H. Parulekar