

New duck culture system for integrated farming

By

T. Muthu Ayyappan

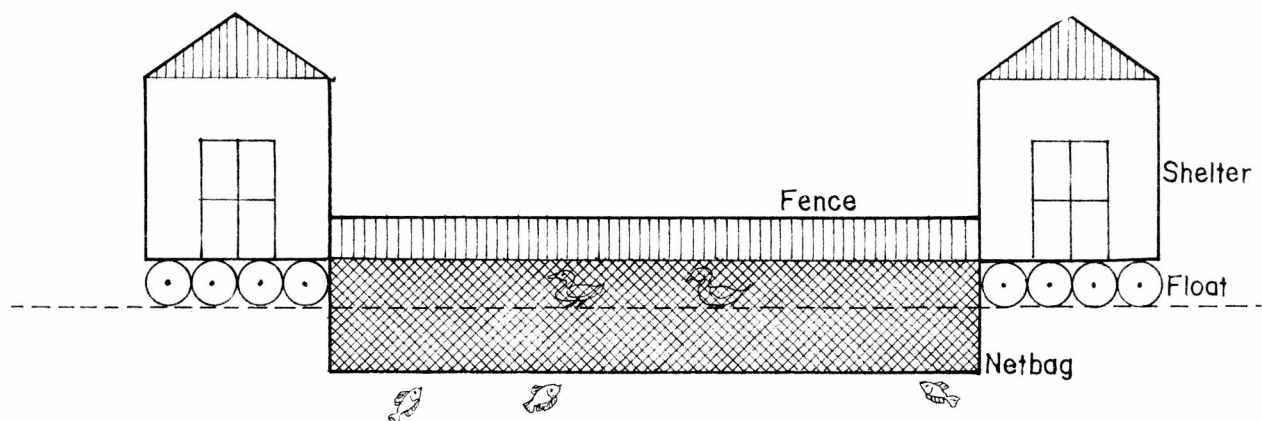
1/65 I, Thanusham

Marthandam, K.K. Dist.

Tamilnadu, South India

Integrated fish culture is practiced by raising different livestock with fish to better utilize available resources. Duck-and-fish culture is a common example. This article describes a new floating shelter system for duck culture in an integrated farm.

ected to the pond bund by a rope, if not allowed to float. The rope allows the shelter to be pulled near the pond bund when needed for feeding and other activities.



Construction

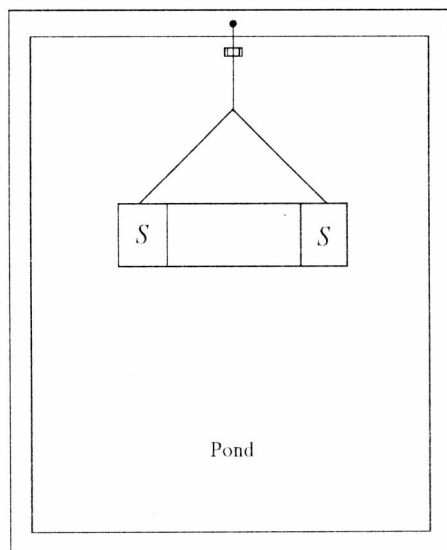
The floating shelter consists of two roofed and screened shelters made up of bamboo or other suitable local material. The shelters are kept afloat by using necessary floating material. Each shelter has a free entrance, and a door providing easy exit. The two floating shelters are connected by two poles in a manner that the free entrance of the shelters face each other. The poles and the platform of the shelters form a rectangular frame. This in turn forms a frame for a large net bag. Atop the netbag is another set of ironmesh or net. See illustration.

Duck raising

The ducks are kept in the two shelters, and the net bag forms a fenced swimming pool for them. The culture of fish and the cultivation of crops nearby are totally separate from duck culture. The shelter unit is con-

Floating system for duck-fish culture:

recommended spacing is 1 duck per 2-4 m² in the water area and 1 duck per 0.5-1 m² in sheltered area



Top view of the floating duck shelter.
Note attachment to the pond bund.

Application and uses

- The system prevents the predation of fishes by the ducks. Hence, fish culture could be carried out smoothly. The stocking density of appropriate cultured fish species may be raised
 - Ducks can not do damage to crops and pond bund. The restricted movement of the ducks also means energy saved for growth. This is significant when ducks are raised for meat
 - The movement of the floating unit throughout the pond makes uniform distribution of duck droppings (to fertilize the pond)
 - The establishment of the shelter unit in water saves the ducks from predatory animals on land
 - The shifting of the unit from one pond to another is easy
- ###