



A Monthly e Magazine  
ISSN:2583-2212

March, 2025 Vol.5(3), 6556–6559

Popular Article

## Status of Financial Health of Fisheries-based FPOs in Tripura

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[DOI:10.5281/ScienceWorld.15125809](https://doi.org/10.5281/ScienceWorld.15125809)

Assessing the financial health of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) is critical for ensuring their sustainability and growth. FPOs, collective entities formed by farmers, require regular financial evaluation and monitoring to ensure they remain viable, meet their goals, and access credit or investment. It shows how strong and sustainable a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) is in terms of money, profits, and ability to manage loans and expenses. Regularly checking financial health helps FPOs grow stronger, become more trustworthy, and attract support from banks, the government, and markets. A holistic financial health assessment of FPOs blends financial statement analysis, ratio evaluation, cash flow monitoring, and qualitative governance assessments. Regular monitoring through simple digital dashboards or specialized FPO evaluation tools helps make timely interventions, enhancing FPO creditworthiness and ensuring long-term sustainability. The financial health of fisheries-based Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Tripura[1] varies across different organizations, influenced by factors such as access to financial support, availability of quality inputs, and market linkages. Tripura, like other states in the Northeast, has an agriculture-based economy, with approximately 42% of its population dependent on agriculture and allied activities [2]. However, small and marginal farmers often face challenges such as limited access to markets, low bargaining power, and dependence on intermediaries. To address these issues, the Government of India has promoted the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). These organizations empower farmers by facilitating collective decision-making, improving market access, and reducing transaction costs. The establishment of FPOs has emerged as a transformative initiative for improving the socio-economic conditions of small and marginal farmers. By reducing the role of intermediaries, improving access to markets, and promoting value addition, FPOs create sustainable opportunities for farmers to



achieve better livelihoods [3]. Continued support in terms of policy interventions, financial assistance, and technological integration will be crucial in maximising the impact of FPOs in the agricultural sector [4]. One notable example is the Bagma Agri-Producer Company Ltd. (BAPC Ltd.), which evolved from a Farmers' Club established in 2005. With assistance from the People's Organization for People's Initiative (POPI) TRIBAC, it was registered under the Indian Trust Act, attaining FPO status. BAPC Ltd. had over 200 members. However, the organization has faced challenges[5], including limited exposure to technological advancements and inadequate infrastructure development. These issues have hindered its financial performance and growth. There are few recently developed FPC/FPOs in Tripura.

**Table 1: Detail of the fisheries-based FPOs in Tripura**

Sl. No.	Namesof the FPOs	Members	District	Year of Establishment
1	Babamani FPC	50	Khowai	2023
2	Bishalgarh FPC	153	Sepahijala	2022
3	Yakswrang FPC	103	Sepahijala	2023
4	Agarduth FPO	51	Khowai	2024

Babamani Fed Farmer Producer Company Limited, identified by CIN U10209TR2023PTC014311, is a private company that has been operational for one year, three months, and twenty-eight days since its incorporation on November 8, 2023. It is classified as a non-government entity and is registered with the Registrar of Companies (RoC), Shillong. The company has an authorised share capital of ₹10,00,000 and a paid-up capital of ₹10,000. Similarly, Bishalgarh Natural Farmer Producer Company Limited, with CIN U01100TR2022PTC014057, was incorporated on December 17, 2022. This private company, also classified as a non-government entity, is registered with the Registrar of Companies in Shillong. It has an authorised share capital of ₹1,000,000 and a paid-up capital of ₹10,000. Yakswrang Farmer Producer Company Limited, bearing CIN U10209TR2023PTC014329, has been in operation for one year, two months, and seventeen days since its incorporation on December 20, 2023. It is categorised as a private, non-government company and is registered with the Registrar of Companies (RoC), Shillong. The company has an authorised share capital of ₹10,00,000 and a paid-up capital of ₹10,000. A study involving a sample of sixteen members from various Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) was conducted during a training program titled "Capacity Building Programme on Managerial Abilities of FPO Members in Tripura." The training took place at the College of Fisheries, Tripura, from March 3 to March 5, 2025. A semi-structured interview schedule was administered to assess the financial status of these newly established FPOs and FPCs in the region.





The key indicators for assessing the financial health of the FPOs were profitability, liquidity, solvency, resource use and provision of annual audit. The FPO members have given their responses, which are tabulated below:

**Table 2: Financial health status of the FPOs/FPCs**

Sl. No.	Names of FPOs	Annual Profit	Liquidity	Resource use	Solvency	Audit
1	Babamani FPC	10000	High	High	Moderate	Annually
2	Bishalgarh FPC	200000	High	Very High	Moderate	Annually
3	Yakswrang FPC	10000	High	High	High	Annually
4	Agarduth FPO	10000	Moderate	High	Moderate	Annually

The findings indicate that all participating FPOs are experiencing growth; however, they require greater market access, specialized professional training, access to government schemes, and additional time to attain financial stability. These organizations primarily engage in fish farming, crop cultivation, and dairy and piggery-based enterprises. Among the challenges identified, ensuring a constant electricity supply and renovating existing water bodies emerged as significant concerns. Many FPOs have received financial support from the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. In recent years, the Government of Tripura has launched various initiatives to strengthen the fisheries sector, aiming to improve the financial sustainability of fisheries-based FPOs. Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), measures such as funding for water body excavation, fish seed distribution, and training programs have been introduced. Additionally, the Mukhyamantri Matsya Bikash Yojana allocated ₹160 crore in the last financial year to support fisheries' development. These initiatives aim to improve production and profitability within the sector. Despite these efforts, challenges persist. A study in South Tripura identified major barriers to adopting recommended fish farming technologies, including lack of financial support, unavailability of low-



cost feed, and lack of quality fish seeds [5]. These factors continue to impact the financial health of fisheries-based FPOs in the region. In summary, while certain fisheries-based FPOs in Tripura have established themselves and are operational, their financial health is influenced by ongoing challenges related to financial support, input availability, and infrastructure. Government initiatives are in place to address these issues, but their effectiveness in improving the financial performance of these organizations requires continuous assessment. However, the overall financial health of Fisheries-based FPOs in Tripura continues to face challenges due to the ongoing need for substantial investment, support, and regular monitoring.

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