

KISSAN VIKAS CHAMBER PUNJAB (Regd.)

Block-C, Aerocity, Airport Road, S.A.S. Nagar-160062, Punjab

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To

The Chief Minister Punjab,
Chandigarh.

Sub: Illegal farming and trade of Thai Mangur Fish.

Respected Maharaja Sahib,

I on behalf of Kissan Vikas Chamber Punjab want to bring to your kind notice the illegal farming and trade of the Thai Mangur fish and in the consequent of it, it is not only hitting the economic interest of the genuine fish farmers, but also causing enormous damage to the flora and fauna and may become a formidable threat to human health.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has already banned the farming and sale of this fish in all the states on the above grounds e.g. damage it is causing to both vegetation and living lives including human beings. Interested parties had gone to Kerala high court and then to the Supreme Court against this judgment but both the courts have upheld the original order of the NGT in no uncertain terms.

These fish cause Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) which is a fungal disease of both fresh and brackish water fish and Thai Mangur is highly prone to it and this EUS causes heavy damage to several indigenous flora and fauna. Heavy metal is found in this fish which causes heart diseases, Diabetes, Arthritis and human beings becoming prone to cancer. Moreover this fish being highly carnivorous, rotten flesh is often added to its ponds which becomes both an environmental hazard and an easy source of infectious diseases. Taking all these health hazards in view, the World Health Organization(WHO) also banned it and directed all its members countries to stop its rearing and trade.

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This business is becoming more and more lucrative as this fish gets matured in five months where as other ones take a complete one year to attain maturity. Moreover Thai Mangor does not need deep water and can survive even in shallow muddy ponds as it can partly respire on atmospheric oxygen.

It is also pertinent to mention here that its farming and trade is already banned in Punjab and the notices of this ban are on the display in the Mandis where fish is auctioned or sold. But its uninterrupted trade is still going on.

I think that urgency of the matter requires your immediate attention and intervention to save Punjab's vegetation and human health and also to protect the interests of genuine fish farmers. It is highly desirable that Govt. should direct the Mandi Board to issue strict instructions to all the local mandis to stop this Illegal trade and keep a strict watch over its implementation. It will go a long way to achieve the Punjab's both cherished goals of diversification of agriculture as well as of "Tandrusat Punjab".

Thanking you

Date: 11-03-2019

Yours Sincerely,



(Kulwant Singh)

President kissan vikas Chamber Punjab,