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AERATOR INTEGRATED IPRS SYSTEM

[*1]Er. Ashish Chaudhary, [2]Salik Ram Poudel, [3]Shobhakhar Pandey, [4]Bimarsha Gyawali

[1](Agricultural Engineer)

[2](Senior Agriculture Officer) (Office Chief, NAMP, PIU-Rupandehi)

[3](Agriculture Officer)

[4](Agriculture Officer)

National Agriculture Modernization program (NAMP), Program Implementation Unit (PIU), Rupandehi.

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***Corresponding Author: Er. Ashish Chaudhary**

(Agricultural Engineer), National Agriculture Modernization program (NAMP), Program Implementation Unit (PIU), Rupandehi.

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INTRODUCTION

An aerator is a modern device used in fish ponds to increase the level of dissolved oxygen (DO) in water. Adequate oxygen is essential for the survival, health, and growth of fish. Aerators create water movement and break surface tension, allowing oxygen from the atmosphere to dissolve more easily into the water. They also help remove harmful gases such as ammonia (NH_3) and carbon dioxide (CO_2).

The Aerator Integrated IPRS (In-Pond Raceway System) is an advanced aquaculture technology in which raceway structures are constructed within a pond and aerators are used to maintain high oxygen levels. This system improves fish growth, productivity, and management while enhancing the efficiency, sustainability, and profitability of fish farming.

Overview of the IPRS System

In an Aerator Integrated IPRS system, a small section of the pond is developed into a raceway where fish are cultured, while the remaining pond area functions as a natural water treatment zone. Aerators maintain dissolved oxygen levels and create a healthy environment for fish culture. The system also ensures continuous water flow, efficient waste collection, and easier management.

Importance and Applications

Although the IPRS system has tremendous potential, its successful operation depends on strong technical management. IPRS is not a simple plug-and-play technology; it requires skilled and trained operators who can properly manage and optimize the system.

With proper monitoring and management, farmers can significantly improve operational efficiency, fish welfare, and production control.

Major Advantages

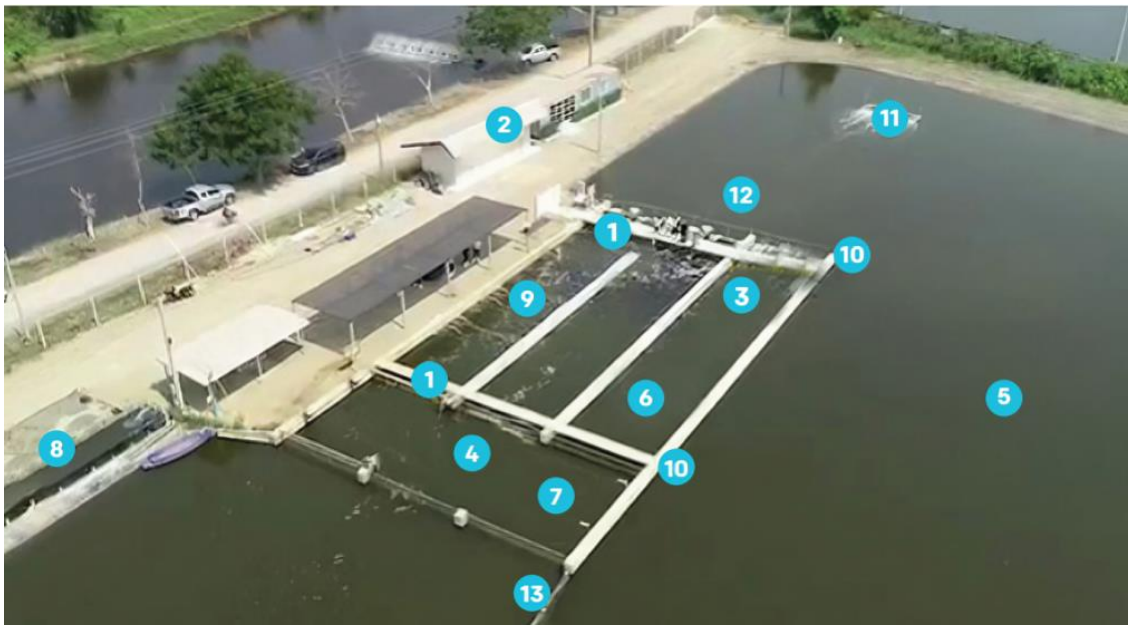
- Improved Fish Health and Easy Monitoring: The confined raceway structure makes it easier to observe fish behavior, detect diseases early, and provide timely treatment.
- Labor and Time Saving: Feeding and dead fish collection can be performed quickly and efficiently from a centralized location.
- Minimal Water Use: Regular water exchange is generally unnecessary. Only water lost through seepage and evaporation needs replacement.
- Enhanced Biosecurity: Keeping fish within a limited area reduces the risk of disease spread.
- Improved Operational Efficiency: Staggered stocking ensures continuous production and flexible harvesting.
- Higher Production and Income: Controlled conditions and efficient management increase productivity and farmer income.
- Environment-Friendly Technology: Reduced water usage, better waste management, and higher productivity make the system sustainable and eco-friendly.

Working Principle and Major Components

Main Components of the IPRS System

1. Confinement Gates
2. Feed Storage
3. Mechanical Auto-Feeder
4. Mechanical Solid Waste Removal System
5. Open Pond Area
6. Production Zone (PZ)
7. Quiescent Zone (QZ)
8. Solid Waste Removal System
9. Supplementary Aeration (SA)

10. Working Walkway
11. Whitewater Unit (Open Pond)
12. Whitewater Units (Raceway Head) / Aerator Section
13. Baffle (Flow Control Wall/Plate)



Working Mechanism of the Aerator Integrated IPRS System

1. Continuous Water Flow and Control

Confinement Gates and Baffles direct water flow in a fixed direction inside the raceway. Whitewater Units at the raceway head create high-velocity water movement to maintain uniform flow throughout the system.

2. Aeration System

Whitewater Units and Supplementary Aeration (SA) increase dissolved oxygen levels in water. This keeps fish active, reduces disease occurrence, and promotes faster growth.

3. Fish Production Zone

Fish are cultured at high density inside the Production Zone (PZ). Feed is supplied automatically through Mechanical Auto-Feeders and stored safely in Feed Storage units, improving feeding efficiency.

4. Waste Collection and Removal

Continuous water flow carries fish waste and uneaten feed toward the Quiescent Zone (QZ), where waste accumulates. Mechanical Solid Waste Removal systems then remove the waste, helping maintain clean water.

5. Role of the Open Pond Area

Water leaving the raceway is reused in the open pond area. Whitewater Units re-oxygenate the water before recirculation.

6. Operation and Management

The Working Walkway allows workers to inspect the system, feed fish, and carry out maintenance activities efficiently.

- Key Features of the System
- Continuous water circulation
- High oxygen supply
- Automated feeding management
- Efficient waste removal

The integration of these functions enables high fish production in a limited area while maintaining water quality and improving overall productivity.

Paddle Wheel Aerator in IPRS

The paddle wheel aerator is widely used in IPRS technology to increase dissolved oxygen and maintain water circulation within raceways.

Main Components of Paddle Wheel Aerator

1. Electric Motor

- Main power source of the aerator
- Supplies energy to rotate the paddle wheels

2. Gear Box / Reducer

- Reduces high motor speed to suitable torque
- Maintains proper paddle wheel rotation speed

3. Main Shaft

- Transfers power from the motor to the paddle wheels
- Ensures smooth power transmission

4. Paddle Wheels

- Rotate in water to create splashing action
- Increase oxygen mixing and maintain water movement

5. Floats / Pontoons

- Keep the aerator floating on the water surface
- Usually made of plastic or HDPE

6. Frame Structure

- Steel or iron structure supporting all components
- Holds the motor, gearbox, and shaft firmly

7. Coupling

- Connects the motor and gearbox
- Ensures balanced power transmission

8. Bearings

- Help the shaft rotate smoothly
- Reduce friction and extend operational life

9. Protective Cover

- Protects the motor and gearbox from water, dust, and damage

Operating Procedure

Pre-Operation Setup

- Clean and level the pond
- Construct raceway structures using HDPE or concrete
- Maintain water depth between 1.5–2 meters
- Install paddle wheel aerators and water circulation systems
- Ensure reliable electrical power supply

Water Management

- Water continuously flows in one direction inside the IPRS system
- Aerators create circulation within the raceway
- Waste accumulates at the end of the raceway
- Waste should be removed regularly

Aerator Operation

- Aerators are generally operated for 16–24 hours daily, especially at night
- Additional aerators are required for higher fish stocking density

Functions of the Aerator

- Increases dissolved oxygen (DO)
- Maintains water movement
- Helps remove CO_2 and harmful gases

Recommended DO Level: Maintain above 5 mg/L

Fish Stocking

- Fish are cultured at high density (approximately 50–100 kg/m³)
- Healthy and uniform-sized fish should be selected
- Fish are stocked only inside raceways while the remaining pond area acts as a treatment zone

Feeding Management

- Feed fish 2–4 times daily
- Floating feed is recommended
- Feeding rate should be approximately 2–5% of body weight
- Uneaten feed should be removed immediately

Water Quality Monitoring

The following parameters should be monitored regularly:

- Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
- pH: 6.5–8.5
- Temperature: 20–30°C
- Ammonia (NH_3): should remain low
- If Necessary
- Increase aerator operating time
- Replace water partially

Waste Management

- Waste accumulates at the end of the raceway
- Sludge should be removed 2–3 times per week
- Collected waste can be utilized as fertilizer

Maintenance Schedule for Aerator Integrated IPRS System

Daily Maintenance

S.N.	Task	Responsible Person
1	Check whether the aerator is operating properly	Operator
2	Check dissolved oxygen (DO) level	Technician
3	Inspect for abnormal noise or vibration	Operator
4	Observe fish behavior and stress condition	Operator
5	Ensure regular power supply	Operator

Weekly Maintenance

S.N.	Task	Responsible Person
1	Remove algae and debris from paddles	Technician
2	Tighten bolts and nuts	Technician
3	Inspect float condition	Operator
4	Clean accumulated waste from raceways	Worker
5	Inspect wires and cables	Operator

Monthly Maintenance

S.N.	Task	Responsible Person
1	Grease bearings	Technician
2	Check or replace gearbox oil	Technician
3	Clean and inspect motor	Technician
4	Check shaft alignment	Technician
5	Evaluate aerator performance	Technician

Quarterly Maintenance

S.N.	Task	Responsible Person
1	Inspect complete structure	Technician
2	Paint rusted parts	Technician
3	Check float leakage	Technician
4	Inspect water flow system	Technician

Annual Maintenance

S.N.	Task	Responsible Person
1	Motor overhaul	Technician
2	Replace bearings	Technician
3	Replace worn-out parts	Technician
4	Complete inspection of IPRS system	Expert
5	Re-evaluate capacity and efficiency	Technician

Safety Precautions

1. Electrical Safety

- Aerators, motors, and control panels must be properly grounded.
- Operate switches only with dry hands.
- Use high-quality cables with MCB/ELCB protection.
- Avoid open wires or exposed connections near water.
- Regularly inspect wiring and motors.

2. **Mechanical Safety**

- Do not touch paddle wheels while the aerator is running.
- Always switch off the machine before maintenance.
- Prevent clothes, ropes, or hands from getting trapped in moving parts.
- Do not operate without safety covers.

3. Water and Workplace Safety

- Maintain anti-slip arrangements around ponds.
- Workers should use life jackets and safety equipment when necessary.
- Ensure adequate lighting during nighttime operation.
- Restrict access to unauthorized persons and children.

4. Operational Precautions

- Avoid overloading the aerator beyond its rated capacity.
- Regularly monitor dissolved oxygen levels.
- Maintain backup power systems such as generators or solar units.
- Only trained personnel should operate the system.

5. Maintenance Safety

- Regularly inspect bearings, belts, and paddles.
- Repair or replace damaged parts immediately.
- Use PPE such as gloves and boots during maintenance.
- Store oils and grease safely.

6. Health and Hygiene

- Wash hands after direct contact with pond water.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to water to reduce skin disease risk.
- Use masks and gloves while handling chemicals or pesticides.

Standard Technical Specification for Aerator Integrated IPRS System

Introduction

The Aerator Integrated In-Pond Raceway System (IPRS) is an advanced aquaculture technology designed to improve fish production through efficient oxygen supply and controlled water circulation. The system is especially suitable for high-density fish culture and modern commercial aquaculture practices.

General Description

Parameter	Specification
Equipment Name	Paddle Wheel Aerator
Application	Increasing Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in water
System Type	IPRS (High-Density Fish Culture System)
Operating Mode	Continuous / Intermittent

Motor Specifications

Parameter	Specification
Power Capacity	1 HP – 3 HP (2 HP commonly used)
Voltage	220V Single Phase / 380–415V Three Phase
Frequency	50 Hz
Motor Speed	1400–1500 RPM
Motor Type	TEFC (Totally Enclosed Fan Cooled)

Gearbox and Transmission System

Parameter	Specification
Gear Type	Helical / Worm Gear
Gear Ratio	1:10 to 1:15
Output RPM (Paddle Shaft)	90–120 RPM
Material	Cast Iron / Alloy Steel
Lubrication System	Oil Lubricated

Paddle Wheel Assembly

Parameter	Specification
Number of Paddles	4–6 per set
Paddle Material	HDPE / Nylon / FRP
Paddle Diameter	400–500 mm
Paddle Width	150–200 mm
Shaft Material	Stainless Steel (SS 304/316)
Splash Efficiency	High (Fine Droplet Formation)

Float System

Parameter	Specification
Float Material	HDPE / UV Stabilized Plastic
Buoyancy Capacity	≥150 kg Load Support
Number of Floats	2–4 Floats per Aerator
Frame Connection	Galvanized Steel Frame

Frame Structure

Parameter	Specification
Material	Mild Steel (Hot Dip Galvanized)
Corrosion Resistance	High
Design	Stable and Vibration-Free

Performance Specifications

Parameter	Specification
Oxygen Transfer Rate	1.5 – 2.5 kg O_2/hr (for 2 HP)
Aeration Efficiency	≥1.2 kg O_2/kWh
Coverage Area	Approximately 0.5–1 Hectare per Aerator
Effective Operating Depth	1–1.5 m Water Depth

Control and Safety Features

Parameter	Specification
Starter Type	DOL / Star-Delta Starter
Protection System	Overload Relay, MCB
Earthing	Mandatory
Cable Type	Waterproof Heavy-Duty Cable
Emergency Switch	Required

Special Requirements for IPRS

- Scientific placement is necessary to ensure uniform aeration within raceways.
- Continuous aeration (24/7 operation) is essential.
- Backup systems such as generators or solar power are mandatory.
- Dissolved Oxygen (DO) level should be maintained above 5 mg/L.

Advantages of Aerator Integrated IPRS System

- High fish production capacity
- Adequate oxygen supply
- Improved water quality
- Efficient feed utilization
- Easy management and monitoring

Problems and Solutions

High Initial Investment

Problem

Raceway structures, aerators, and pumps are expensive.

Solution

- Utilize government subsidies or concessional loans.
- Start on a small scale and expand gradually.

Power Failure

Problem

Lack of electricity may reduce oxygen levels and cause fish mortality.

Solution

- Install backup generators or solar systems.
- Use DO alarm systems for monitoring.

Lack of Technical Knowledge

Problem

Improper operation may reduce productivity.

Solution

- Participate in technical training programs.
- Seek regular consultation from experts.

Risk of Disease Outbreak

Problem

Diseases spread rapidly under high stocking density.

Solution

- Conduct regular fish health monitoring.
- Follow strict biosecurity measures.
- Maintain proper water quality.

Equipment Failure

Problem

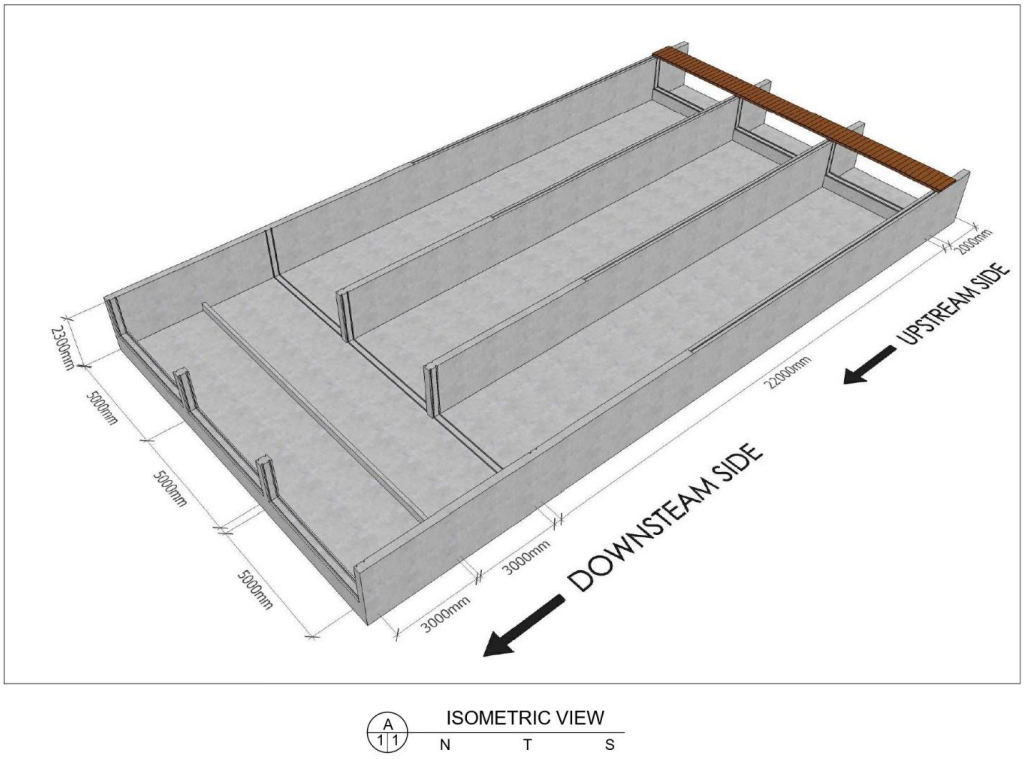
Failure of aerators or motors affects the entire system immediately.

Solution

- Follow a regular maintenance schedule.
- Keep spare parts readily available.

Limitations

- May not be suitable for all farmers
- Requires continuous monitoring
- Depends on reliable water resources
- Requires skilled manpower



Technical Blue Print (Source: US Soyabean Export Council)