

ICAR-CIFA organised Awareness cum Training programme on Scientific Aquaculture at Aul-Niala, Bhitarkanika, Kendrapara, Odisha

ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, conducted a one-day Awareness-cum-Training Program on Scientific Aquaculture under the SCSP project on November 29, 2024, at Aul-Niala, Bhitarkanika, Kendrapara, Odisha. The event saw enthusiastic participation from around 200 beneficiaries, including approximately 140 farm women and 60 farmers, highlighting the significant involvement of women in aquaculture and related social activities. ICAR-CIFA scientific team, comprising Dr. G. S. Saha, Dr. S. N. Sethi, and Mr. Arun Kumar Behera (Technical Officer), highlighted the significance of adopting scientific aquaculture practices and leveraging ICAR-CIFA's latest technological advancements to enhance productivity.



Dr. Sethi emphasized the advantages of organic aquaculture, advocating for minimizing the use of harmful chemicals. He also presented fish-based integrated farming as a sustainable approach to improve farmers' livelihoods while maintaining ecological balance. He emphasized the importance of using fish feed judiciously rather than excessively, highlighting its economic advantages from a business perspective.

In his address, Dr. Saha discussed fish-based entrepreneurial opportunities, encouraging farmers to diversify their production beyond Indian Major Carps (IMC) by incorporating ornamental fish farming alongside IMC cultivation. He also discussed with farmers about various marketing strategies related to aquaculture. Mr. Behera discussed about different kinds of fish feed.

Mr. Ramesh Chandra Nayak, Senior Technical Officer, and Mrs. Satyabhama Jena, AFO, Kendrapara, also took part in the event, sharing details about various schemes offered by the central and state governments to support fish farmers.

The event also featured the participation of the CEOs of two Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) from Kendrapara. Mr. Baikuntha Nath Pradhan (CEO, Bhitarkanika FPO) and Mr. Rabindra Nath Sahoo (CEO, Kharakhai FPO) shared their experiences in fish farming and their roles within the FPOs, which greatly inspired the farmers. Over one thousand farmers and farm women are associated with these two successful FPOs. Bhitarkanika FPO has 540 members, while Kharakhai FPO boasts a membership of 650.

The program concluded with Mr. Pradhan extending a vote of thanks to all participants and contributors, marking the successful culmination of an insightful and impactful event.

For details, please contact Director, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar
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