

ICAR-CIFA observed Women in Agriculture Day

ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, observed Women in Agriculture Day with great enthusiasm on 4th December 2024, at Phiringia, Kandhamal. Over 200 beneficiaries, including Women Self-Help Groups (WSHGs), fish farmers, numerous stakeholders, NGOs, Mission Shakti members, and government officials were participated. The program underscored the significant role of women in aquaculture and associated social initiatives. It commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. G S. Saha, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA. To celebrate and recognize the contributions of women in agriculture while addressing the unique challenges they face, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) introduced the concept of **Women in Agriculture Day**. In India, women make up 33% of the agriculture labor force and 48% of self-employed farmers. They contribute to agriculture in many roles, including as cultivators, entrepreneurs, and laborers.

Mrs. Asalata Narendra, Assistant Fisheries Officer, Kandhamal, Dr C. K. Misra, Dr. S. N. Sethi and other technical team members of ICAR-CIFA attended the programme. Mrs. Narendra (AFO) emphasized the pivotal role of women in agriculture, highlighting their potential to drive economic and nutritional empowerment. She believes that women's active participation in farming and other ventures can yield fruitful results, fostering self-reliance, improved livelihoods, and substantial contributions to the overall development of society. She also discussed about some govt. schemes related to fish farming. Mrs. Sima Rani Digal, a successful farmer, highlighted her journey to success through adopting advanced fish farming technologies. She emphasized how women can excel in agriculture by embracing innovation

and hard work, transforming traditional practices into profitable ventures. Her story inspired women to achieve empowerment and leadership in the agricultural sector. The program not only



highlighted the critical role of women in aquaculture but also paved the way for innovative and sustainable practices in the sector. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Sethi, marking the culmination of a day rich in knowledge exchange and empowerment.

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