

ICAR-CIFE Agribusiness Incubation Centre Organizes COHORT-One, 30-31 May, 2024

Agribusiness Incubation Centre of ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai with the support of IP&TM Unit, ICAR organized two days aquapreneurship development program “COHORT-One” on 30-31 May, 2024 in collaboration with Bhoomiputra Foundation, an NGO working for the welfare of Koli (Fisher) Community in Maharashtra and National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP). The program was attended by 166 participants from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Odisha. There were four technical sessions where the ABI incubatees, start-ups, entrepreneurs, industry & finance personnel, researchers & academicians, etc. from NABARD, MPEDA, MSME, ICAR Institutes, Fisheries Department, Agriculture Department and Fish & Shrimp Industries freely exchanged the ideas and information about the critical issues in strengthening the agribusiness and startups and entrepreneurial initiatives of incubatees. As an output of the interaction on first day, five Cohort Groups *i.e. Seaweed culture, Fish value addition, Ornamental fish culture & fish seed production, Aqua feed development and Spirulina culture* were formed for further round table discussion on specific issues related to the theme areas of the cohort groups.

The program was inaugurated by Padma Bhushan Shri Ram Naik (Former Governor of Uttar Pradesh), President of Fisheries Development Policy Committee, Maharashtra. He shared his experiences about foreign fishing trawlers and his pivotal role in the formation of the Murari Committee. Shri Naik also highlighted the initiatives for the well-being of the Arnala fisher community when he was a cabinet minister. He motivated the young entrepreneurs and the fisher community with his encouraging and inspiring words. Emphasizing upon the possibility of betterment in every venture Shri. Naik advised that there is always a better way of doing things.

In his presidential address, Dr. C. N. Ravishankar (Director & Vice-chancellor ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai) mentioned about the collaborative efforts of ICAR-CIFE towards the betterment of fishing communities by promoting aquapreneurship among the fishing communities and the students.

The Guest of Honor Shri. Shantanu Bhadkamkar (Managing Director, ATC Global Logistics Pvt. Ltd.) shared his experience of meeting fisher folk and students to know the emerging trends and future expectation from the fisheries sector. He appreciated the ambience and facilities of ICAR-CIFE and shared his views on fishing and logistics emphasizing the global pro-Indian sentiment and the critical role of startups.

Dr. N. P. Sahu (Joint Director, ICAR-CIFE and PI, NAHEP) underscored the national & global status of entrepreneurs, policy ecosystem and the importance

of promoting entrepreneurship among students for generating sustainable employment and income.

The welcome address and the theme of Cohort One were presented by Dr. S. P. Shukla, In- Charge, ABI-CIFE. The program was coordinated by Dr. Shivaji Argade, Dr. Layna P., Dr. Paramita Banerjee Sawant, Dr. Sashi Bhushan & Mrs. Snehal Parab. The vote of thanks was presented by Mr. Vikas Motiram Koli, Founder of Bhoomiputra Foundation .

As per the online feedback received from the participants, more than 50% of them expressed their intention to initiate small-scale fisheries & aquaculture businesses with the support of ABI-CIFE. About 80% reported their high level of satisfaction about the program content and management.



Inauguration by Padma Bhushan Shri. Ram Naik (Former Governor, UP)



Participants of the Cohort-One



Fisheries Start-ups Pitching



Cohort group formation and discussion