



Awareness workshop on **Entrepreneurship Scope for Students in Environmental Impact Assessment** Report

The Aquatic Environment and Health Management Division, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, organised an awareness workshop on "**Entrepreneurship Scope for Students in Environmental Impact Assessment**" on 14th August 2024 under the aegis of National Agricultural Higher Education Project. The workshop aimed to introduce students to the principles and practices of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to pursue careers in this vital field. There were 119 participants male (68) and female (51), including both offline and online attendees from the various fisheries colleges and institutes. The event was organised under the patronage of Dr. Ravishankar C. N., Director/Vice-Chancellor, ICAR-CIFE, and Dr. N.P. Sahu, Joint Director and Principal Investigator of NAHEP, ICAR-CIFE, with key contributions from Dr. Megha Kadam Bedekar, the Head of Division AEHM & Programme Convener, Dr. S.P. Shukla, Principal Scientist & Programme Co-Convener, ICAR-CIFE. The organizing secretaries were Dr. Kundan Kumar, Senior Scientist, AEHM Division, and Dr. Saurav Kumar, Senior Scientist, AEHM Division, ICAR-CIFE. The workshop featured enlightening sessions by distinguished speakers Dr. M. Karthik, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Mrs. Gautambala Nandeshwar from MV Kini Law, Dr. Kundan Kumar from ICAR-CIFE, Mr. N.K. Shendye from Aditya Environmental Services Pvt. Ltd., and Dr. Pramod Dabrase from the Centre for Sustainable Environment and Development Initiatives. These experts shared their insights in the technical sessions on the technical, legal, and entrepreneurial aspects of EIA, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the field's significance in sustainable development.

Dr. Megha Kadam Bedekar, welcomed the chief guest, guest speakers, faculties and students to the workshop program and highlighted the uniqueness of skill development in documentation procedures in EIA. Dr. S.P. Shukla briefed about an overview of the workshops and the importance of the initiatives in bridging the gap between academic learning and practical application. Dr. N.P. Sahu, Joint Director & PI, NAHEP-ICAR-CIFE in his Presidential address, highlighted the vast scope available to environmental students in the field of EIA and environmental management.

In the technical session, Dr. Karthik, Senior Principal Scientist at NEERI, Nagpur delivered a lecture on "**The need for environmental impact assessment studies, its transition and realities**". He focused on the critical need for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies, their evolution, and the realities faced during their implementation. He detailed the process of conducting an EIA, emphasizing the importance of assessing environmental impacts before a project's implementation to ensure sustainable development. A key aspect of the presentation was the distinction between Rapid EIA (REIA) and Comprehensive EIA (CEIA). Overall, the presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the EIA process, highlighting its importance in promoting sustainable development.

The next lecture was delivered by Adv. Gautambala N.'s on "**Legal, Policy, and Regulatory Framework**". She presented detailed aspects of the legal structures underpinning Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) in India. She highlighted on the environmental provisions within the Indian Constitution, specifically Articles 48-A and 51-A, which outline the state's responsibility and citizens' duty to protect and improve the environment. Overall, the session underscored the importance of a strong legal framework to ensure that developmental activities that are sustainable and environmentally sound.

भा. कृ. अनु. प. - केन्द्रीय मात्स्यिकी शिक्षा संस्थान

(यूजीसी अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के तहत विश्वविद्यालय)

ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education

(University under Sec.3 of UGC Act 1956)



Panch Marg, Off Yari Road,
Andheri(West), Mumbai - 400061, India

The next lecture was delivered by Dr. Kundan Kumar, Senior Scientist, ICAR–CIFE, Mumbai on "***Students' Perspective on EIA***". He highlighted the scope of the fisheries sector and the specialized courses offered in M.F.Sc and Ph.D in Aquatic Environmental Management (AEM). He outlined the research areas and outcomes of AEM students research work, particularly in developing mitigation measures to address pollution. He emphasized the importance of publishing high-impact research and introduced new initiatives of institute to tackle the issues, such as e-waste management, toxicity evaluation, and the development of mitigation models.

Mr. N.K. Shendye's presented on "***Case Studies in EIA***," a comprehensive overview of the basics and statutory requirements of EIA. He outlined the responsibilities of various authorities involved in EIA processes, especially for fishing harbours, and introduced the PARIVESH Portal, a digital platform for managing environmental clearances. A significant part of the session was a detailed case study of the EIA conducted for the Madhwad Fisheries Harbour project in Gir Somnath district, Gujarat. Mr Shendye mentioned about internship opportunities for master's students at Aditya Environmental.

The fifth lecture was delivered by Dr. Pramod Dabrase on the "***Scope for Students in Fisheries and Environment***". He highlighted the importance of sustainability and the growing concern over micro-pollutants in the environment. He accentuated the entrepreneurship potential within the EIA sector, emphasizing the demand, opportunities, and flexibility it offers. He outlined various career opportunities in regulatory bodies and provided a list of international organizations and national and international research institutes for and higher studies.

The session underscored the diverse opportunities available for students in fisheries and environment studies, ranging from entrepreneurship to roles in research and corporate social responsibility.

The panel clarified that EIA is a notification based on the statutory authority of the Parliament, highlighting its legal foundation. In addition the panel responded to the question raised on the loopholes in the EIA 2020 notification, that the EIA 2020 notification is still pending and has not yet been enforced, indicating that the concerns raised are yet to be addressed officially. The panel suggested that gaining exposure by working with established industries in the relevant field is crucial and that the specific area of interest would guide aspirants in their career paths. The highlight of the event is few important recommendations as 1) Frequent specialized workshops and brainstorming session focussing the environment as a subject of entrepreneurship development and career opportunities and 2) Hands-on workshop for mock EIA document writing.

The workshop concluded with a comprehensive summary presented by organising secretary Dr. Kundan Kumar, following the summary, feedback was collected from the participants. In his closing remarks, Patron Dr. N.P. Sahu recommended that similar meetings should be organized frequently to students to upgrade their understanding of critical environmental issues like EIA. The various sessions of the programme was coordinated by Dr. Saurav Kumar, organising secretary and the event formally ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Kundan Kumar. The programme was successfully completed, marking a significant step towards empowering students with knowledge and opportunities in the environmental sector.

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Glimpse of various sessions of the event

Inaugural Session:



Dr. N.P. Sahu, Joint Director and PI, NAHEP-ICAR-CIFE is delivering Presidential speech



Dr. Megha K. Bedekar, Head AEHM Division and Convener is delivering Welcome speech



Speakers Dr. M. Karthik, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Mrs. Gautambala Nandeshwar, Advocate from MV Kini Law, Dr. Kundan Kumar, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFE, Mr. N.K. Shendye, Dy. General Manager, Aditya Environmental Services Pvt. Ltd., and Dr. Pramod Dabrase, Director, Centre for Sustainable Environment and Development Initiatives



Group photographs of the events and few photograph of inaugural program, panel discussion.