

World Soil Health Day Celebration

ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai

5th December 2020

ICAR-CIFE-Mumbai along with its Centres (Powarkheda, Kakinada, Rohtak, and Motipur) jointly celebrated World Soil Day, on the 5th of December 2020 at 3:00 p.m. through an online platform as a means to focus attention on the **importance of healthy soil and water quality** for sustainable management of soil and water resources and also to highlight the provisions made under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) being executed through State Governments and NFDB**. About **150 participants** including farmers, students, and faculties have attended the programme, and Powarkheda Centre facilitated the joining of a group of 30 farmers and Shri G. S. Bele, Assistant Soil Testing Officer, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. CIFE Kolkata Centre organised a program in Bengali language for the farmers associated with them.

The programme was organized Dr K K Krishnani, Head. Aquaculture Division. Dr K K Krishnani delivered a talk on “Soil health and water quality cards for the sustainable management of aquaculture and culture based fisheries”. and OICs of CIFE Centres Dr S K Nayak, Dr P.A. Muralidhar, Mr Harikrishna and Dr Md Aklakur informed the gathering about the soil health cards issued by them and how to keep the soil healthy by use of bio-fertilizers and organic farming. Shri G. S. Bele told the farmers the right procedure of collecting soil samples. Mr. Rama Krishna Rao, Senior Executive, NFDB spoke on the provisions of entrepreneurship under PMMSY and the procedure to avail funding for various ventures. He highlighted the brief guidelines made available on NFDB website.

Dr Aparna Chaudhari (Director I/C) talked about the link between soil and nutrition, and also urged the OICs of CIFE Centres and scientists and students of CIFE to make themselves familiar with the PMMSY guidelines and ensure that its benefit reaches the target groups. She also thanked Dr. Gopal Krishna Director CIFE for his guidance and support. The meeting ended with a pledge to conserve soil and curb soil pollution for a sustainable future.



