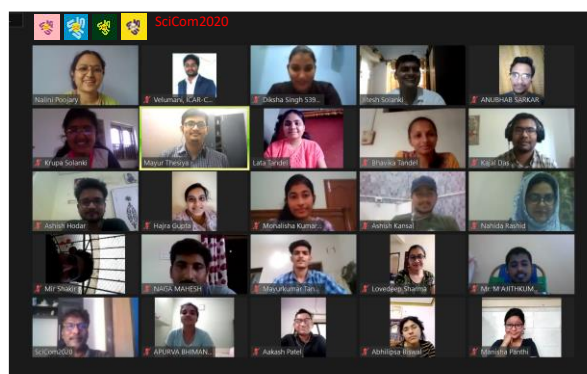


ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education

REPORT on NAHEP-CAAST sponsored Online Training Program “SciCom for Smart Scholars”

SciCom for Smart Scholars was a tailor-made online short course designed primarily for practicing scientists/faculty and research scholars working in NARS (ICAR/SAU/CAU/DUs) to enable them become smart practitioners and communicators of science. This one-of-its-kind, flexible and free two weeks online course was conducted, due to overwhelming response, in 4 batches of 160-190 participants each between **5th May and 8th June 2020**. Of the **708 people enrolled**, nearly 40% were females, and nearly half of them were students (Masters & PhD) while close to 25% were scientists in ICAR, 15% were faculty from fisheries colleges and SAUs; nearly two third had fisheries specialisation, while others were from agriculture and allied subject background. Nearly **67% of them have completed the course successfully**.

The online program consisted of 15 sessions including the pre-training and post-training assessments and feedback survey. The broad topics of the program were Changing Landscape of Scientific practice; Breaking Myths in Science Communication; Virtual Learning using *Google Classroom*; Reference Management Tool (*Zotero*); GIF Animations; making an Effective Oral Presentation; Scientific Writing & Publication

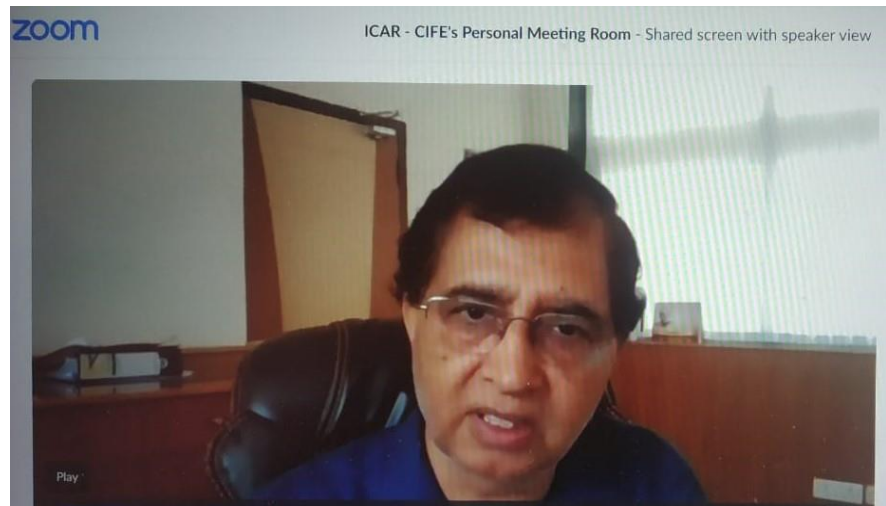


Ethics; Science & Open Access; Scientometrics: Publish or Perish; Visualising Data using PowerBI and R Software. The session plan followed during 2 weeks online course included live lectures / lecture demos while the recorded lectures videos were shared to reinforce learning and help those who could not attend some sessions to catch up. Each session had a quiz and an individual assignment while follow-up sessions were conducted to clear the doubts. Informal but professional discussions were held 24x7 in both Google Classroom and the WhatsApp groups encouraging peer learning. Assessment was done based on a rigorous criteria with due weightage to attendance, quiz, assignment and active participation/contribution in discussions.



A combined **valedictory function** of the online Training Program SciCom for Smart Scholars was conducted virtually for all the four batches on 11th June, 2020 at 10.30 Am. **Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM, was the Chief Guest** of the function. **Dr. N. P. Sahu**, HoD, & Component Lead (Pedagogy), NAHEP-CAAST, ICAR-CIFE gave a brief background of this training programme right from its conceptualization to its present form. **Dr. Ananthan P.S.** Senior Scientist and SciCom Course Coordinator gave an overview and highlights of program.

Dr. Gopal Krishna, Director & PI, NAHEP-CAAST Project.CIFE in his Presidential Address highlighted the utility of the program in the present digital era. Stressing upon the need for more similar programs, he said CIFE will continue to strengthen this flagship program and make it available for a much wider audience.



The Chief Guest, **Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao**, Director, ICAR-NAARM, in his address congratulated the CIFE team and urged the participants to not only do science but also communicate it effectively. He said how important it is for us to improve continuously and excel exceptionally in our chosen field, and devote time to visualize and interpret data differently, if we wish to stand at par with other nations



such as China which has shown tremendous growth in scientific publication during the last decade. He was all praise for CIFE, for the successful completion of the training program and also gave new insights based on NAARM's experience in offering customized and sector specific programs in this area. The participants shared their feedback through the online survey

form and rated the program and technical support as 4.8/5.

The program ended with a formal vote of thanks by **Dr. Nalini Poojary**, Course Coordinator.



Coordinators

Associates



Dr. P.S. Ananthan



Dasari Bhoomaiah



Dr. Nalini Poojary



Velumani T.



Suman Dey



Experts



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