

ICAR-CIFE Organises Jal Udyogini 2.0: Promoting Women Aquapreneurship

The **Agribusiness Incubation (ABI) Centre of ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai** successfully organized a one-day Women Entrepreneurship Development Program (WAD) “*Jal Udyogini 2.0*” on 9th June, 2025. The event was attended by 56 participants including fisherwomen from different Women Self Help groups, Vrutti foundation and FFPO team associated with **Daryavardi Producer Company Limited (DPCL)**, Mumbai to explore enterprise opportunities in the Fish Processing sector.

Under the leadership of Dr. N. P. Sahu, Director ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai, the event was initiated by **Dr. S. P. Shukla**, Principal Scientist and In-Charge, ABI. He highlighted the importance of women-led entrepreneurship in fisheries and aquaculture and the support provided by ICAR-CIFE through its ABI Centre for promoting women entrepreneurs. **Mrs. Ujjwala Patil**, Founder, DPCL and Daryavardi Macchimar Sangh (DMS), spoke about the DPCL roles & responsibilities towards promoting women entrepreneurs. **Mr. Lalit Jadhav**, CEO, DPCL brief the Fisherwomen SHG strength and future scope of DPCL in promoting women SHG-led Start-ups in fisheries. **Mrs. Sonia Garcha**, Senior Consultant (Vrutti Foundation) explained the Vrutti foundation’s support for DPCL and how it is helping fisherwomen to come together as a strong producer group with business potential in fisheries.

Technical sessions were conducted on ‘*Fish Processing and Entrepreneurship Opportunities*’ by **Dr. Layana P., Scientist** (Co-PI, ABI). This was followed by a session on ‘*Financial Support for Entrepreneurship Development*’ by **Dr. Shivaji Argade**, Senior Scientist (Co-PI, ABI). The technical program continued with a visit to the fish processing facilities. The program concluded with an interactive discussion with the participants. The event was coordinated by the ABI team and anchored by Mrs. Snehal Parab (Senior Research Fellow, ABI). The event highlighted the collaborative efforts of ICAR-CIFE’s ABI team, Vrutti Foundation, and DPCL, Mumbai, in empowering women through entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector.

