

Training programme on Modern methods of freshwater aquaculture for fish farmers of Purulia, West Bengal during August 28-30, 2024

A three days skill development training programme on 'Modern methods of freshwater aquaculture' was organized at District Project Management Unit (DPMU), West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project, Agri-Irrigation Complex, Belguma, Purulia, West Bengal for the 30 Nos of SC fisher folks (Male 28 and Female 2) of Bankura district during August 28-30, 2024. The training was inaugurated in the presence of Mr. Joydip Das, Executive Engineer, DPMU, Dr. T. K. Ghoshal, Principal Scientist & Head ICAR-CIFE Kolkata Centre. The training was coordinated by Dr. Suman Manna, Scientist, ICAR-CIFE Kolkata Centre. Other staffs of DPMU like Agriculture specialists Mr. Subhendu Bikas Chanda, Dr. Avijit Halder, Fishery specialists Mr. Gouranga Ojha, Mr. Raj Mandal, Mrs. Sangeeta Maity facilitated the training programme as resource persons.

In the welcome address, Mr. Joydip Das inaugural address, informed the house that several village ponds were constructed by Agri Irrigation Department and these ponds have potential for fish farming where sufficient water is present all over the year. Being in close proximity with Ramsagar, Bankura, getting good quality seed is not a concern here but due to lack of scientific fish farming and other resources, farmers are not able to harness maximum potential from the farm ponds. Dr. T K Ghoshal, Principal Scientist and Head, ICAR-CIFE Kolkata Centre briefed the participant about the present status of feed-based aquaculture and emphasized about the preparation of low-cost farm made feed with small machineries which small and marginal farmers can easily adopt. Hands on training on preparation of farm made feed preparation using locally available ingredients were given to farmers. Dr. Suman Manna briefed the farmers about the pond management and maintenance of different water and soil quality parameters. Practical demonstration of water quality parameters like pH, DO, ammonia, hardness etc. using CIFE aquaculture test kits were showed to farmers. Other important aspects like fish disease management, freshwater prawn culture, tilapia culture and integrated fish farming were also covered so that farmers can get maximum benefit and improve the livelihood along with nutritional security of the farm family.

Other staffs of DPMU, Purulia, Mr. Gouranga Ojha and Mr. Raj Mandal, fishery specialist addressed the farmers regarding integrated fish farming and common fish diseases and their prevention. Mr. Subhendu Bikas Chanda, Institute development specialist, DPMU, Purulia, deliberated on the fishery activities in the community managed ponds.

In the valedictory programme, Mr. Joydip Das, Executive Engineer of DPMU emphasized the farmers to adopt scientific fish farming starting from pond preparation, manuring, regular water quality monitoring, liming etc. so that they can get maximum production from the pond and can improve the livelihood security. In the feedback session farmers expressed their satisfaction on the deliverables from the training and motivated towards adopting scientific fish farming. At the end of the training programme, training certificates, manual, CIFE pH and DO kit were

distributed among the farmers. The programme is highly successful and received positive feedback from the participants.



Fig. 1. Group photo with the participants



Fig. 2. Participants attending technical sessions



Fig. 3. Participants attending technical sessions in classroom



Fig. 4. Practical session on farm made feed preparation



Fig. 5. Hands on practical on water quality analysis



Fig. 6. Field visit to farmer's pond



Fig. 7. Distribution of CIFE pH and DO kit to farmers



Fig. 8. Distribution of training certificate to farmers



Fig. 9. Participants with their training completion certificates