

Celebration of
International Women's Day
and International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 by
ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai

Date: 8 March 2026

Venue: Worli and Versova Fishing Village, Mumbai

ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai celebrated “International Women’s Day” and International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026) on 8th March, 2026 at Worli and Versova Fishing Village, Mumbai under the leadership of Dr. N.P. Sahu, Director (Acting), ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai to recognize and celebrate the contribution of fisherwomen in the fisheries value chain and to create awareness, especially among the fisher women about the relevance of the day and their role in driving national development. A total of 97 fisher women, 42 students and 10 scientists of ICAR-CIFE took part in these two programmes.

At Worli fishing village, Dr. Prasenjit Pal, Senior scientist FEES Division, welcomed the participants and introduced the objectives of the programme. Dr. Babitha Rani, Principal Scientist, Aquaculture division, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai briefed about the activities of ICAR-CIFE. Three progressive fisher women felicitated. Farmer–scientist interaction sessions were organized. During this session, women fish vendors discussed several challenges they face in their daily work and livelihood activities. Dr. Ankush Kamble Senior Scientist FEES Division emphasized the importance of diversifying income sources for fisherwomen by engaging in the preparation of value-added fish products. He explained that processing fish into products such as dried fish, pickles, and other processed items can significantly increase income compared to selling raw fish. Dr, Neha Qureshi stressed the need to recognize women’s essential contributions to the fisheries sector and society. Dr. Deepitha R. P., Scientist from FRMPH division highlighted the need to increase the production of value-added fish products in order to enhance the income of fisherwomen. Dr. Upasna encouraged women to develop their small businesses to capture more value from their products.

At Worli fishing village programme was coordinated by Dr. Prasenjit Pal, Dr, Ankush Kamble, Dr. Neha Qureshi and Ms. Smita Koli in collaboration with local fisher leader Shri. Suryakant Koli.

Another programme was conducted under the research project “Swacchta Action Plan and Commercial Utilisation of Fish Waste From Urban Fish Markets”, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai at Versova fishing village. Swachhata Abhiyan (cleanliness) was conducted and celebration of International Women’s Day along with the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 was held aiming to raise awareness of the role of women in agrifood systems at Versova Fish Market and Vesava Koli Sahakari Sarvodaya Society Limited (fisheries cooperative society).

The programme coordinators, Dr. A. K. Verma, Principal Scientist, and Dr. Madhuri Pathak, Scientist, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai, interacted with local women and highlighted the importance of hygienic fish handling practices, proper waste disposal, and regular cleaning of fish market areas to ensure public health and environmental sustainability.

As part of the *Swachhata Abhiyan*, participants, including ICAR-CIFE staff and local women fish vendors, actively participated in cleaning the fish market premises and the surrounding areas. The activities included the collection and segregation of waste materials such as discarded fish parts, plastic bags, and other debris, which were properly disposed of. The initiative aimed to create a cleaner and safer environment for vendors, consumers, and the local community.

The celebration of International Women’s Day along with the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 recognized the dedication and hard work of women in the fishing community. On this occasion, Dr. A. K. Verma, Dr. Madhuri Pathak from ICAR-CIFE and fishing community leaders Shri. S.G. Raje, Mrs. Sharda Patil, Mrs. Kavita along with women fish vendors shared their experiences and challenges in fish marketing. Their significant contributions to sustaining the local fish trade were acknowledged and appreciated. The event also emphasized women’s empowerment and encouraged greater participation of women in community development and environmental initiatives. All participants collectively took a pledge to continue working towards the welfare and empowerment of women and the betterment of society.

The programme concluded with a message from the coordinators encouraging the community to maintain cleanliness in the fish market and its surrounding areas. The initiative successfully raised awareness about sanitation, strengthened community participation, and highlighted the vital role of women in sustaining fisheries livelihoods. Overall, the

programme served as a meaningful way to celebrate International Women’s Day along with the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 while promoting hygiene, environmental responsibility, and respect for the invaluable role of women in the fisheries sector.

Worli Fishing Village



Group photo of International Women day



Inaugural Session



Distribution of Registration kit



Farmer –Scientist Interaction Session

Versova fishing village



Cleanliness drive at Versova Fish Market premises and surrounding



Swachhata Abhiyan, Versova Fish Market

International Women's Day Celebration



Distribution of Bags to Women Volunteers

