

## SUCCESS STORY

### **Pearl Farmer from Assam finds the way to turn Waste to Wealth**

Designer freshwater pearl farming has proven to be a thriving industry in many parts of the country. The technology has permeated deep into farmer's fields as a result of ICAR-coordinated CIFA's efforts, and many farmers/entrepreneurs have adopted this technology and found success. Mr. Rulen Hazarika, a farmer of Bechamari, Nagaon district, Assam, was a trainee at the ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar's Pearl Culture Unit from November 9-11, 2020. Following the successful completion of the training, he began a pilot operation combining designer pearl cultivation with fish culture in two Bigha ponds with the support of the state fisheries department. He used a novel method for preparing designer nuclei. In order to improve the primary production of the culture systems, he has followed all pond management guidelines, such as timely fertilisation and liming. Because mussels are filter-feeding organisms, they need a lot of plankton to make good pearls. With a minimal investment of Rs. 60,000/-, he is producing a range of pearl-based things, including designer pearls, shell by-products such as jewellery, and buttons from Mother of Pearls, using his unique procedures to turn waste into income. Dr. Saroj Kumar Swain, Director of ICAR-CIFA appreciated him and stated that his accomplishment can serve as a model for promoting sustainable agricultural techniques, such as pearl cultivation, throughout India's North-Eastern states.



