

AQUACULTURE FIELD SCHOOL INAUGURATED AT SUBARNAPUR

10 November 2020

Puri, Odisha



ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture with its commitment towards the fish farming community has added another milestone in its road map by inaugurating Aquaculture Field School (AFS) at the farm of Sri Kailash Chandra Sahoo, Subarnapur, Puri. The institute has continued its effort during present COVID era to ensure the wellbeing of fish farmers by establishing AFS strictly

adhering to social distancing norms and other Covid protocols. The visionary and strategic endeavour of the Director, Dr. Saroj Kumar Swain and the efforts of Dr. G. S. Saha, Head of Social Science Section and Dr. H.K. De, Principal Scientist and team have probably made the dream come true by establishing AFS to empower aqua-farmers in a cost effective way. Dr. G. S. Saha welcomed the delegates and farmers, briefed about the concept and objectives of AFS. AFS is a school without walls for improving the decision-making capacity of the farmers and facilitate cross learning opportunities. Aquaculture Field Schools promote farmer to farmer extension. It is a participatory extension approach whereby fish farmers are allowed to choose the methods of aquaculture production through discovery-based approach. AFS is composed of a group of like-minded farmers who regularly meet and discuss the technical aspects of fish farming. Ideally, 20-25 farmers make an AFS. Dr. Manas Kumar Sinha, Senior Executive, NFDB deliberated on role of Aqua One Centres in extension delivery and also NFDB interventions/activities for making aquaculture more remunerative. Mr. Sarat Moharana, AFO, Gop, Puri focussed on role of scientific fish farming, involving women SHGs in aquaculture. Sri I. B. Kumar, Senior Administrative Officer, ICAR-CIFA, while emphasizing on COVID guidelines appreciated the efforts made by Sri K. C. Sahoo for adopting scientific aquaculture system integrating many agriculture enterprises with fisheries.

A scientist-farmer interface was another agenda of the programme that could gauge the interest and the visibility of the institute in bringing farmers, stakeholders, state government and NFDB in one platform. Sri K. C. Sahoo illustrated about the role of ICAR-CIFA for making him self-reliant starting with two ponds to owning 20 ac farm and now as AFS operator. He praised the efforts of ICAR-CIFA for reposing faith in him and recognising him as a trainer to guide other



farmers. Dr. Bibhudutta Mishra, Senior Technical Officer and Sri D. P. Rath Technical Officer, CIFA, other resource persons from CIFA also interacted with farmers for their field problems and related queries. Dr. Swain, while addressing the gathering expressed his gratification to Sri K. C. Sahoo for its multidimensional activities related to fisheries and being the embodiment of inspiration for others. He also urged cooperation and interest of farmers to get connected with CIFA for their fisheries activities. He flagged off organisation's commitment to serve for fisher folk and also urged the Scientists and professionals to assist them in order to make fisheries as a sustainable livelihood. Around 70 farmers and farm women attended the programme. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Utkala Laxmi Mohanty, Assistant Chief Technical Officer and ended by vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. Snatashree Mohanty, Scientist, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar.