

ICAR-CIFA observes National Fish Farmers Day 2022

ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture observed 22nd National Fish Farmers' Day at its Kausalyaganga campus here on 11th July 2022. The day is observed in remembrance of scientists Dr K H Alikunhi and Dr. H.L. Chaudhuri who had successfully induced bred one of the carp species on 10th July, 1957. To commemorate this epoch making discovery National Fish Farmers' Day is observed throughout the country. This had eventually revolutionized the Indian Aquaculture industry.



Prof. Sasmita Rani Samanta Vice Chancellor, KIIT (Deemed University) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Prof. Samanta in her speech appreciated the institute for the service to the nation and urged the scientists to bring innovations for the small scale aqua farmers of the country. She stressed the scientists to develop viable organic fish farming models and water efficient aquaculture methods to increase the productivity and conserving the environment at the same time. She motivated the farmers to adopt advanced scientific methods to produce more fish and achieve self-sufficiency. She also asked to farmers not to use any antibiotic substances in fish farming.

Dr Dilip Kumar, Former Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Planning and Policy Adviser, FAO and former Vice Chancellor, ICAR-CIFE was the Guest of honour on this occasion. He underlined that credit should go to all scientists, farmers and stakeholders for the development of the technologies on this important day. He appreciated the efforts by ICAR-CIFA in designing the Matsya Setu app for farmers. He also emphasized about the intensification, feed, diversification, diseases, climate change etc. He motivated the scientists to reorient the research strategies to come out with solutions for the farmers to tackle the changing scenario. He stressed on the message quality



fish for all. Dr K Janardhana Rao, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar the other guest of honour also spoke on this occasion. He stressed on formation of groups based on species. He also focused on skill development of fish farmer's through hands on training and called for strengthening extension services.

Addressing the gathering, ICAR-CIFA Director Dr Saroj K Swain said the invention of induced breeding is hailed as a landmark achievement in the history of fishery in India and abroad. During the last three and a half decades of devoted research, the institute has contributed significantly toward development for breeding and culture of economically important fish and shellfish, use of plastics in aquaculture like FRP portable hatchery, feeds for different life stages of fish, disease diagnostics kits, improved rohu Jayanti, CIFABROOD™, Hybridization detection kit and other useful technologies for the farmers. Matsya Setu app has got a user base of 32000 and its growing. ICAR -CIFA is dedicated to its stakeholders across the country through Flagship Schemes under Government of India like SCSP, STC and NEH.

In the second session as a part of the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* – National Campaign, a interaction was held on the theme “Emerging Aquaculture Systems and Practices”. Over 200 farmers especially farm women, progressive farmers, entrepreneurs, and Govt. officials from Odisha and other parts of the country were participated at the event and the aquaculture experts from the institute had a detailed discussion on various problems faced by the farmers. Fifteen fish farmers/entrepreneurs from different parts of India were felicitated for their contributions in adopting and promoting ICAR-CIFA technologies across the country. The awardees also shared their experience in fish farming with the audience. Six publications and a video film on carp feed were also released on this occasion. Dr. G.S.Saha, Principal Scientist, proposed the vote of thanks.

