

**Regional Research Centre
ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture
Rahara, Kolkata-700118**

A one day workshop on 'Need Assessment for Development of Scientific Aquaculture Practices for SC Fish Farmers' was conducted at Panchuakhali village of Kultali Block on 27.02.2019. Income generation of Scheduled caste community through livelihood programme by adopting scientific aquaculture practices has been a priority activity of Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. Regional Research Center, ICAR-CIFA, Rahara, W.B. in collaboration with KVK, Ramkrishna Ashram, Nimpith has organized one such workshop under DAPSC (Developmental Action Plan of Scheduled caste) programme at Panchuakhali of Kultali block, South 24 Paraganas on 27th February 2019. In this workshop, 350 farmers including woman farmers of Panchuakhali and Gangadharpur villages attended the programme. Geographically, Kultali Block of 24 Paraganas is remotely located in coastal region of the Indian Sundarban and dominated by Scheduled Caste community who, by and large, suffers from stable income to sustain their livelihood. Paddy cultivation which is the main source of livelihood has been always at stake due to unprecedented natural calamities which very often strike the coastal belt and cause to havoc damage. Nevertheless, coastal populace has to bear it with agony as well as uncertainty for further unforeseen calamities. With this backdrop, protein rich food production through aquaculture practice may be one important alternative option among others. Adoption of aquaculture practice is considered ideal because the area is endowed with a number of ponds with perennial water holding feature. Acquainted with traditional fish farming, almost every household has pond and its members are fond of eating fish in their daily meal, if available. Scientific aquaculture practice, under such scenario, will certainly support poor farmers to have alternative source of income, if crop cultivation gets damaged due to natural calamities.

In the initiative of developmental programme, Dr. S. Adhikari, Principal Scientist and Scientist-In-Charge, RRC, Rahara welcome the participants and briefed the activities of RRC, ICAR-CIFA, Rahara for dissemination of scientific know-how to the fish farmers. Dr. B. C. Mohapatra, Principal Scientist and Chairman, DAPSC, ICAR-CIFA highlighted how the activities of DAPSC programme would benefit poverty-driven people in different blocks of India. Dr. B. N. Paul, Principal Scientist and Aquaculture Nutritionist delivered the importance of farm made feed to reduce feed cost to harness maximum economic benefit of fish farming. Dr. D. N. Chattopadhyay, Principal Scientist emphasized on adoption of Scientific Aquaculture to earn desirable fish yield from fish farming and also highlighted the possibility of Hilsa culture in freshwater ponds in near future. Dr. P. Chatterjee, Scientist and SMS (Fisheries), KVK, Ramkrishna Ashram, Nimpith highlighted how farmers of Kultali block were eager to adopt scientific knowledge of fish farming. Dr. R. N. Mandal, Principal Scientist and Coordinator of this programme asserted the commitment of ICAR-CIFA, RRC, Rahara to implement DAPSC programme to uplift downtrodden people of Kultali block. Sri Arabinda Das, Scientist and Sri Ajmal Hussan, Scientist briefed Catfish culture and technical knowhow of aquaculture respectively, which may be suitable in that region. During the workshop the need and requirement of the farmers were assessed through a questionnaire for preparation of future action plan of aquaculture practices in Panchuakhali & Gangadharpur villages. Dr. B. N. Paul, Principal Scientist proposed the vote of thanks.



Lighting the lamp of the DAPSC programme



Dr. B.C. Mahapatra delivering his lecture



A view of gathering attentive to Dr. Adhikari's speech



Distribution of programme kits along with breakfast



Lunch served among delegates



Registration during DAPSC programme