

ICAR-CIFA organizes two days virtual workshop on “Improved Variety of Carps and Freshwater Prawn for Enhancing Farmers’ Income” during 18-19 November 2020 for Fish farmers and Hatchery owners of Assam under ICAR-WorldFish collaborative project.

Day 1 (Wednesday, 18.11.2020)

ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar organised an online awareness workshop on “Improved variety of carps and freshwater prawn for enhancing farmers’ income” for the farmers from Assam during 18-19 November 2020. This workshop was aimed to sensitize the fish farmers, hatchery owners and other stakeholders on the importance of quality fish seed and advantages of adopting improved variety of carps (Jayanti rohu and improved catla) and freshwater prawn to enhance the farmer’s income. On 18 November 2020, total 25 farmers participated in the virtual workshop from Kalong Kapili, a leading NGO in Assam which is also a multiplier hatchery unit for Jayanti rohu since 2012.

Dr. B. R. Pillai, Head, APED and PI of the ICAR-WorldFish collaborative project in her welcome address gave a brief overview of the workshop. She emphasized on the need for adoption of genetically improved carps and scampi for getting maximum benefits by the farmers. She also stressed on the need of dissemination of improved varieties across the country for enhancing the fish production along with income of farmers.

Dr. S. K. Swain, Director, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar in his address expressed his happiness about CIFA organising the virtual workshop for creating awareness about the improved varieties for enhancing the farmer’s income in time of Covid-19 pandemic. He thanked all the scientists who had worked hard to disseminate the Genetically Improved Rohu (Jayanti) and GI Scampi. He encouraged the fish farmers from Assam to adopt these improved varieties along with the scientific aquaculture practices developed by ICAR-CIFA, which in long run would enhance sustainable aquaculture development in the North Eastern region.

Dr. J. K. Sundaray, Head, Fish Genetics and Biotechnology Division, ICAR-CIFA in his address mentioned about achievements of the Assam farmers and congratulated them on winning the award for the category of Best Hilly and North Eastern state from Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India. He urged them to continue efforts.

Mr. Jyotish Talukdar, Director of NGO, Kalong Kapili, Guwahati and Brand Ambassador of State Fisheries Department, Assam shared his valuable experience on culture of genetically improved rohu (Jayanti) with fellow farmers and he thanked ICAR-CIFA for selecting Kalong Kapili as multiplier unit for dissemination of Jayanti rohu in NE region. He also mentioned about the dissemination of Jayanti rohu to about 100 farmers in nearby area during the current year and informed that all the farmers have expressed satisfaction about the growth of Jayanti rohu and are willing to continue culturing Jayanti rohu.

In the technical session, Dr. K. D Mohapatra, Principal Scientist, and project leader of Jayanti rohu and improved catla, ICAR-CIFA gave a detailed presentation titled “Jayanti rohu for higher production and income – How to get maximum benefit from culturing improved fish”. She discussed in detail about the development of Jayanti rohu through selective breeding, economic benefits of culturing Jayanti rohu and importance of quality seed production. She emphasized on the adoption of genetic norms/guidelines in the hatchery to prevent the consequences of inbreeding in aquaculture.

Dr. Debabrata Panda, Scientist, ICAR-CIFA delivered a talk on “Genetically improved freshwater prawn- Culture techniques for higher production”. He discussed regarding selective breeding of freshwater prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* christened as ‘CIFA GI Scampi’ and its culture practices to maximize the production. He mentioned that culture of ‘CIFA GI scampi’ along with catla and rohu gives additional income to the farmer in polyculture system.

Dr. P.P Chakraborti, Principal Scientist, RRC-Rahara, ICAR-CIFA, gave a presentation on “Importance of water quality management in aquaculture”. He explained about the different key water quality parameters like temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, alkalinity, turbidity, transparency, hardness, carbon dioxide and their role in pond productivity to the farmers. The remedial/ management measures to keep these parameters at optimum level were also discussed vividly.

Dr. Khuntia Murmu, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFA discussed about “BMP for Nursery Management of Carps” He has informed that for higher survival of carps during nursery rearing the pre-stocking, stocking and post stocking management is important. He urged the farmers to adopt the scientific management practices such as phase fertilization, supplementary feeding to increase the survival of carp spawn to fingerling.

The technical session was followed by the farmer-scientist interaction session which was coordinated by Mr. Avinash Rasal, Scientist, ICAR-CIFA. Farmers mentioned that they are getting 1.5 kg growth of Jayanti rohu in 10 month culture while some farmer told they get 700 g in six month culture period when they stocked 70-100 g of advanced fingerlings. During the interaction farmers asked questions about the problems faced by them in various aquaculture operations. The scientists from ICAR-CIFA have clarified all the queries raised by them. The structured questionnaire was also discussed in detail with the farmers so that they can fill the correct information for “Performance Assessment of Genetically Improved Rohu” in Assam. The farmers showed satisfaction over the discussion. The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks by Mr. Avinash Rasal, Scientist, FGBD, ICAR-CIFA.



Day 2 (Thursday, 19.11.2020)

The second day of the virtual workshop was conducted for the hatchery owners, fish farmers and other stakeholders of Nalbari region, Assam on 19 November 2020. The meeting was organized in collaboration with Shri Debojit Barman, a leading farmer and a multiplier hatchery owner of Jayanti rohu in Nalbari, Assam. Total 52 farmers attended the virtual programme at Mr. Barman's farm at Nalbari, Assam.

Dr. B. R. Pillai in her welcome address gave a brief overview of the workshop. She emphasized on the adoption of genetically improved carps and scampi for getting maximum benefits to the farmer. Dr. S. K. Swain, Director, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar in his address focussed on the need for dissemination of improved varieties across the country so that it would enhance the production as well as income of farmers. Dr. J. K. Sundaray requested the participants to take the benefit of this workshop for enhancing their production and income.

Mr. Debojit Barman, the proprietor of the multiplier hatchery unit of Jayanti rohu in Nalbari Assam shared his valuable experience on culture of genetically improved rohu (Jayanti) with fellow farmers and thanked ICAR-CIFA for selecting his hatchery as multiplier unit for dissemination of Jayanti rohu in Assam. He mentioned that he has disseminated the Jayanti rohu to nearly 1.5 lakh farmers in Assam as well as from nearby north eastern states such as Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Dr. K. D Mohapatra in her presentation discussed about selective breeding of genetically improved rohu, economic benefits of culturing of Jayanti rohu and importance of quality seed production. She emphasized the importance of the adoption of genetic norms/guidelines in the hatchery to prevent the adverse consequences of inbreeding in aquaculture. She expressed her satisfaction over wider dissemination of Jayanti rohu in the state of Assam.

Dr. Debabrata Panda in his presentation detailed the selective breeding of freshwater prawn and the culture practices to maximize the production. Dr. P.P Chakraborti discussed about the management of water quality parameters and their role in pond productivity.

Mr. Avinash Rasal, discussed about "BMP for Nursery Management of Carps" He emphasised on the importance of pre-stocking, stocking and post stocking management including fertilization, feeding etc for higher survival of carps during nursery rearing.

Immediately after the technical session, the farmers-scientists interaction was held. During this session, the farmers raised various issues faced during the culture and clarified by the scientific team of ICAR-CIFA, The participants showed satisfaction over the discussion. The program was coordinated by Mr. Avinash Rasal, Scientist, FGDD, ICAR-CIFA and the online platform was managed by Dr. I. Sivaraman, Scientist. The workshop ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. D. Panda, Scientist, ICAR-CIFA.

