



Scientists-Farmers Interface held at Purohitpur

Under **Farmer FIRST Project**, ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar organized a Scientists-farmers interface at Purohitpur village, Khordha district with the participation of all stakeholders (Team of ICAR-CIFA Scientists, OUAT Professor and farmers etc.). Over 105 farmers and farm women from nearby villages participated in the programme.

Dr. H.K. De; Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA; Dr(Mrs)P.K. Sahoo; Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA; Dr Basudev Behera, Former HoD, Dept of Agronomy, OUAT; Dr. Subhas Sarkar; Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFA; Mr Sisir Mohanty; Senior technical officer(Library), CIFA; Sri D. P. Rath, Senior Technical Officer, CIFA and Mr V. Bhaskar Rao, Technical Officer attended the workshop. Dr. H. K. De, Project in charge introduced about the project explaining its nittygritties about the activities needs to be performed and interacted with the farmers explaining its objectives and tasks undertaken by CIFA since last many years and encouraged the farmers for mutual cooperation among farmers-scientists to maximize fish productivity by utilising latest technologies of grow out carp culture as well as to promote farmer-farmer extension. . (Mrs) P.K. Sahoo, interacted with the audience explaining in depth details about fish- nutrition biology comprising its rearing and brooding procedure that has been performed in the hatchery unit of ICAR-CIFA and how farmers can avail this opportunity to learn about different aspects of scientific fish farming. Dr. Basudev Behera, interacted with the farmers explaining the details about the mechanics of production practices of different crops and enterprises that needs to be taken for doubling farmer's income in the subsequent years to come. He also emphasized on reducing the costs incurred in the entire cultivation process of farmers by effectively utilizing the latest available inputs to obtain the desired level of output. Dr. Subhas Sarkar, also interacted with the farmers explaining the nature of relationship between soil-water to augment the fish production. He also solved the problems faced by the farmers in their existing ponds regarding time and method of lime and feed application which not only increase fish production but also maintain fish population for a long period of time.

A Scientists-Farmers interface was conducted to discuss about the problems faced by the farmers in aquaculture. In the meantime, innovative farmers awarded by ICAR-New Delhi, Pusa and ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad shared their farming practices adopted by them and how it has doubled their income by taking up fish based Integrated farming system. During this program around 30 pond water samples were analysed by Mr. V. Bhaskar Rao and report containing details of manuring, liming etc. were provided to the farmers. At the end, Sri D. P. Rath, Senior Technical Officer, thanked the entire audience including all the beneficiaries of Purohitpur village for successfully managing the programme and encouraged them to build excellent rapport with ICAR-CIFA Scientists in the coming years.

