

Fish Farmers-Scientists Interface held at Haldia

6 March 2020

Haldia, West Bengal

ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar, Odisha organized a fish farmers-scientists interface meet on **“Improved variety of carp and freshwater prawn for enhancing farmers’ income”** on 06 March 2020 at Haldia Bhawan, Haldia, West Bengal under ICAR-WorldFish collaborative research project. The objective of the program was to sensitize the fish farmers of Haldia about the developed genetically improved varieties of carps and freshwater prawn for higher production and income. About 80 participants including 63 progressive farmers of the Haldia attended the program. Dr. S. Adhikari, Principal Scientist and Scientist-in-Charge, Regional Research Centre, Rahara, ICAR-CIFA welcomed the farmers and guests and gave a brief overview of the interface meet. The program was chaired by Dr. Bindu R. Pillai, Director, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar. Shri Smrutiranjana Mohanty, IAS, Sub-Divisional Officer, Haldia, Dr. Madhumita Mukherji, Addl. Dir. Fisheries (Tech.), Mrs. Tulika Dutta Banerjee, WBCS, Block Development Officer, Haldia and Mr. S. N. Jhaa, General Manager (HR), IOCL, Haldia, West Bengal also graced the occasion as invited guests. Dr. Pillai highlighted about the genetically improved rohu, catla and freshwater prawn developed by the institute. She urged the farmers to take the benefit of these improved varieties. Five progressive farmers - Sri Pabitra Mukherjee, Sri Sk Sofi Ahamed, Mrs. Arati Barman, Mrs. Sephali Dolui Manna and Sri Hori Barman of Haldia were felicitated by the Director, ICAR-CIFA for their outstanding contribution in the freshwater aquaculture.

In the technical session Dr. Kanta Das Mahapatra, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA gave an overview of “Importance of Genetically improved carps for increasing farmers income”. She highlighted the benefits of improved varieties and about the advantages of farming genetically improved variety of carps like Jayanti rohu for higher production. She urged farmers to adopt improved varieties to reduce the culture period and higher income. Dr. Debabrata Panda, Scientist, ICAR-CIFA spoke on the genetically improved freshwater prawn (scampi) developed at ICAR-CIFA. He informed that by culturing this improved scampi about 60% higher yield has been achieved as compared to the non-improved prawn. Dr. Deb Narayan Chattopadhyay, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA delivered a talk on “Culture of diversified fish species for higher-income”. He discussed about the different farming systems and available diversified fish species and scientific culture practices developed by ICAR-CIFA for higher production and income.

A question-answer session was held and it was moderated by Dr. B N Paul, Principal Scientist, Dr. H K De, Principal Scientist and Dr. K. Murmu, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFA. The farmers raised queries on feed management, fish diseases, nursery pond management etc. The farmers showed their satisfaction over the deliberations. The program concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. Farhana Hoque, Scientist, ICAR-CIFA.

