



Monitoring visit to Kandhamal under DST-SEED project

A team of scientists from ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, carried out monitoring visit to Phulbani, Kandhamal during 12-13 June 2024 to monitor activities under DST Project which is aimed at empowering Scheduled caste fish farmers. The project has involved over 80 SC women from three self-help groups involved in aquaculture activities by leasing panchayat tanks. Dr G. S. Saha, Dr H. K. De, and Dr C. K. Mishra, Principal Scientists of ICAR-CIFA interacted with the beneficiaries



at their pond sites and emphasized the importance of aquaculture and the utilization of advanced technologies for maximizing productivity. The team advised farmers to regularly test pond water and soil to maintain optimal conditions for aquaculture and recommended the application of the latest feed technology to ensure proper nutrition for the fish, which is vital for improving growth rates and overall yield. The team also visited adopted ponds at Balandapada and



Phiringia of Kandhamal district to monitor the progress of activities carried out under DST project. The team interacted with the farm women about the growth and health status of the stocked fish. Critical inputs such as lime, fish feed were provided to the beneficiaries. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are leveraging CIFA

technologies for carp culture, as intimated by Mrs. Janamati Digala, President of Omm Jay Maa Tarini SHG group. She shared their positive feedback about involvement in aquaculture and its

benefits. There were significant interactions involving members of three Self-Help Groups (SHGs): Omm Jay Maa Tarini in Pakangaon, Baba Bholeswar in Balandapada, and Sagar in Phiringia. These interactions focused on community development and empowerment by adopting CIFA technologies in fish farming, aiming to enhance the capabilities of SHG members. Mrs. Sebjani Digal and Mrs. Babita Digal, President and Secretary of Baba Bholeswar SHG, along with Mrs. Rina Mukhi and Mrs. Sabita Mukhi, President and Secretary of Sagar SHG, contributed significantly by sharing their experiences. They discussed their guidance from the scientific team of CIFA on freshwater aquaculture, emphasizing practical knowledge crucial for sustainable development in their communities.


