



Scientists-Farmers Interface held at Siddha Kutila

Under **Farmer FIRST Project**, ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar organized a Scientists-farmers interface at Siddha Kutila village, Khordha district with the participation of all stakeholders (Team of ICAR-CIFA Scientists, OUAT Professor and farmers etc.). Around 100 farmers and farm women from nearby villages participated in the programme.

Dr. G.S. Saha; Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA; Mr. Jackson Debbarma; Scientist, ICAR-CIFA; Dr. Niranjan Chinara, Assistant Professor, Dept of Plant Pathology, OUAT; Mr. Sisir Mohanty; ACTO, ICAR-CIFA attended the workshop.

Dr. G.S. Saha interacted with the farmers, explaining the objectives and tasks carried out by CIFA over a long period of time. He also encouraged the farmers to work together with scientists to maximise fish productivity by utilising the most recent techniques for grow-out carp culture as well as to support farmer-farmer extension.

Dr. Niranjan Chinara interacted with the audience explaining in depth details about the technology involved in mushroom cultivation explaining its detailed procedure involved starting from bed preparation till harvesting and how farmers and farm women can avail this opportunity in their free time to add extra income into their pockets by getting maximum returns through minimum input. He also stressed on the importance of how this kind of activity will raise the level of empowerment among the women SHG members by taking up these kinds of activities.

Mr. Jackson Debbarma interacted with the farmers explaining in depth details about the stocking procedure of different sizes of fish fingerlings that needs to be taken for doubling farmer's income in the subsequent years to come. He also emphasized on using quality fish seed with proper feeding tech by using floating feeds for the long term growth and survival of fingerlings and regularly maintaining it to get the desired size and level of output within 1-2 years.

A Scientists-Farmers interface was conducted to discuss about the problems faced by the farmers in aquaculture. In the meantime, innovative farmers shared their farming practices adopted by them and how it has raised their income by taking up different enterprises of agriculture and allied activities.

In the end, Sri S.K. Mohanty, ACTO, thanked the entire audience including all the beneficiaries of Siddha Kutila village for successfully managing the programme and encouraged them to build greater coordination and cooperation with ICAR-CIFA Scientists in the coming years.

