

National Fish Farmers' Day Observed at College of Fisheries, CAU (Imphal), Lembucherra, Tripura

The College of Fisheries, Central Agriculture University (Imphal), Lembucherra observed the National Fish Farmers' Day on 10th July 2016. Amidst the presence of 124 fish farmers from across various N-E States as well as students, faculties, researchers, staff members of the college and a host of dignitaries, Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Dean, College of Fisheries welcomed the audience with the exposition on relevance of the National Fish Farmers' Day and the role being played by the College. The programme was inaugurated by Padma Bhushan Prof. Ram Badan Singh, Hon'ble Chancellor of Central Agricultural University (Imphal) as the Chief Guest. In courteous recognition of the contribution made by Late Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his team for invention of induced breeding technology on this day in the year 1957 to revolutionize the protocol of fish breeding, Prof. Ram Badan Singh portrayed the importance of Blue Revolution in the country during his absorbing inaugural address. He also made a call to the students and the researchers of the assembly to remain dedicated for furthering the contribution of fisheries sector towards the national GDP in one hand and its employability on the other. Prof. M. Premjit Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University presided over the inaugural function, which was also well attended by Shri Rameshwar Das, IFS, Secretary (Fisheries), Govt. of Tripura and Dr. M.L. Bhowmik, former Dean, College of Fisheries as the Guests of Honour. With a note of appreciation for running vocational courses on different areas of fisheries and aquaculture since last couple of years by the College of Fisheries and execution of Village Adoption Programmes as well as pertaining of on and off campus trainings by it for the benefit of fish farming community of the N-E Region as a whole, Prof. M. Premjit Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of CAU, Imphal in his presidential address laid special emphasis on further strengthening of such farmers' focused outreach activities of the College. The inaugural function also featured the release of 05 folders, 02 booklets, and 01 calendar covering some key areas of scientific fish farming by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries on the Dias.

This apart, the current issue of quarterly College Newsletter was also released and pond health cards were distributed to the fish farmers of College adopted village. Five fish farmers of the states of Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura were awarded as "Best Fish Farmer" of their respective states. The fish farmers were distributed with the College produced quality fish fingerlings and fish feed. Moreover, in recognition of their performances under the Village Adoption Programme of the College, "Best Fish Farmer", "Best Trainee in Weaving and Mending of Cast net" and "Best Trainee in Weaving and Mending of Drag net" awards were also conferred to one fish farmer and two rural women. Prof. R.K. Saha, the Coordinator of the programme proposed the vote of thanks.

The inaugural session of the programme was followed by a Farmer-Scientist-Student interaction session, wherein, apart from well known fisheries scientists, experts of the College and scientists of ICAR NEH Region took part as facilitators to discuss and offer solutions on the issues raised. The platform was also utilised for sharing of experiences and outstanding innovations of the progressive farmer participants from different north eastern states of India.

On the occasion, one exhibition was also organised in the college to showcase different technologies, farm publications, fish products, low cost fish feeds etc. developed by it. On this auspicious day, Padma Bhushan Prof. Ram Badan Singh, Hon'ble Chancellor of Central Agricultural University (Imphal) also laid the foundation stone of PG Girls' Hostel of the College.