

Skill development programme on “Integrated Semi-Intensive Aquaculture” (06th March-5 June, 2019) inaugurated at College of Fisheries

A 3-month long skill development programme for rural unemployed youths and school drop-outs from different north-eastern states on ‘**Integrated semi-intensive aquaculture**’ was inaugurated on 6th March, 2019 at the College of Fisheries, Central Agricultural University, Lembucherra, Tripura. The skill development programme has been sponsored by Power Finance Corporation, New Delhi and is being organized by the Department of Aquaculture of the College. The inaugural function was graced by Prof. V. L. Dharurkar, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Tripura University as the chief guest and presided over by the Dean, COF, Dr. Pramod K. Pandey. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Dharurkar highlighted the civilizational linkage, importance and relevance of fisheries in India, especially with respect to intelligence and health. He further emphasised that fisheries and aquaculture has tremendous economic potential especially in NE region of the country where most of the local populace relish fish but the region is not self-sufficient in fish production. But, he emphasized that the economic potential can be harnessed only if requisite skill is imparted and acquired. He also stated the topic is highly relevant for youths who can make a living out of it. The Dean, Dr. Pramod K. Pandey in his presidential address highlighted the high standing of the college in the fisheries fraternity of the country as one of the best colleges. The college is performing impressively in all arena including teaching, research and extension. In this context he pointed out that in the last year JRF entrance examination conducted by the ICAR, four (4) students were in the top ten rankers in the country. He instilled confidence in the trainees that scientific aquaculture is having one of the highest economic potential among agricultural enterprises in the country and can definitely be a viable livelihood option in the NE region provided the participants genuinely involve themselves to acquire the requisite skills and basics of scientific aquaculture. Earlier, Prof. Arun B. Patel, HOD, Dept. of Aquaculture & course director briefed the technical contents of the programme highlighting the emphasis on integration and hands-on skill in aquaculture during the programme. He also highlighted the background of the programme wherein effort has been put to develop a programme which should empower the participants with knowledge and impart requisite skill so as to make them aquaculture-ready. In this context, Prof. Patel stated that the greater emphasis would be given to the skill by allocating about 60% of the time and resources. He also reminded trainees that three-month vocational programmes are few and participants are selected after greater scrutiny. The trainees have been selected from large number of aspirants after taking their pond, aspiration and enthusiasm into account. The programme ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Pradyut Biswas, Asst. Prof. (SS), Department of Aquaculture & Training co-ordinator to all the dignitaries for their presence, and university authority for support and Power Finance Corporation, New Delhi for sponsoring the programme.

(Pramod K. Pandey)

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