

Completion of Three (3) - month vocational training programme on “Aquaculture Production and Its Management” (29th October, 2015 to 29th January, 2016)

The College of Fisheries (COF), Central Agricultural University (CAU), Lembucherra has been organizing vocational training programmes of 1-6 month duration on different topics of Aquaculture for school drop-out unemployed youths from NE states. In this series, a three-month vocational training programme on “**Aquaculture Production and Its Management**” was organized during 29th October 2015-29th January, 2016 by Department of Aquaculture for school drop-out/unemployed youths from states of Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. In this regard, a valedictory function was organized for awarding of certificates to the trainees on 30th January, 2016 which was graced by Shri- Dilip Das, Sabhadhipati, West Tripura as “Chief Guest” while Dr. Pramod K. Pandey, the Dean, COF presided over the function. Prof. J. R. Dhanze, Former Dean, COF and Dr. K. Majumdar, Visiting Research Professor, DBT, GOI were the guests of honor. On this occasion, a training manual prepared for the trainees was also released by the Chief guest. Addressing the trainees, Shri Dilip Das, appreciated continued efforts taken by the college for disseminating the knowledge of scientific aquaculture to the youths. He also requested trainees to publicize/propagate these knowledge to the neighboring farmers for better productivity in the state. He stated that in Tripura fishes are the most sought food item after staple foods and are bought by families before any other meat products. Therefore, there is huge scope of making money through aquaculture.

At the outset, Dr. Pramod K. Pandey, Dean, COF, CAU, Lembucherra welcomed the chief guest, other dignitaries, faculties, staffs, research scholars and above all the trainees in the function and emphasized the relevance of the vocational programme by highlighting the profit earning potential of aquaculture. He cited an example of an entrepreneur who made started aquaculture in leased water bodies and is currently having an annual turnover of about Rs. 3,000 (three thousand) crores. He instilled confidence in trainees that scientific aquaculture can definitely be a viable livelihood option for them in the NE region where demand of fish is simply very high. He also assured the trainees about the help as when they require in future.

The course coordinator & Head Aquaculture Dr. Arun B. Patel, HOD, briefed the house during the programme, the trainees had undergone carefully planned lectures followed by hands on sessions and field works relating to pond management (does calculation and applications of fertilizer and lime, feeding, fish harvest/sale), floating pelleted fish feed production, seed production of ornamental fishes and Amur common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Other aspects like aquarium fabrication, live feed culture, feed formulation, water quality monitoring, etc. were also adequately covered. Dr. Patel highlighted the recent observation of Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture that it is time now to take start-ups to the fields of fisheries and aquaculture. Finally, he reminded the trainees that all said and done, it is crucial that trainees enjoy putting hard work in the ponds and sun to realize the potential of aquaculture.

Prof. J. R. Dhanze, former Dean, College of Fisheries, Lembucherra encouraged the organizing committee about the efforts taken by them towards enlightening the farmers about aquaculture production technology. Dr. Khsitish Majumder, eminent scientist shared his views on fish culture and its potentiality for poverty alleviation.

Few trainees also shared their delightful experience during the training programme and requested for some more exposure on different aspects of Indian Major Carps and catfish breeding. The hon’ble chief guest, Shri- Dilip Das distributed certificates, training manual to each trainee. On this occasion, floating fish feed which was produced by the trainees themselves was also distributed to each trainee

The function ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Sagar Mandal, Asst. Prof. (SS) College of Fisheries, Lembucherra.