

## **A brief report on NFDB-sponsored Skill development programme on “Aquaculture Technician” 5-30 June, 2018**

A month long (5-30 June, 2018; 200 h) programme on “**Aquaculture Technician**” sponsored by National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad was conducted for high school/college dropout, rural youth and farmers was organized by the Department of Aquaculture of the College of Fisheries, Central Agricultural University, Lembucherra Tripura. In total 25 school drop-outs/unemployed youths including 22 male and 03 female from states of Tripura and Manipur participated in the programme. Majority (17) participants were selected through walk-in-interview subsequent to open advertisement in the paper. Rest were nominated by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Andro, Manipur (5), Sesta Development Services, Tripura (an NGO; 2) and Divyodaya Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Khowai (1). The Programme was inaugurated on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in the presence of function was graced by Shri Rajeev Kumar Sharma, DIG, GC, CRPF, West Tripura as the chief guest and was presided over by Dr. Pramod K. Pandey, Dean, College of Fisheries, Lembucherra, Tripura. The chief guest, Shri R. K. Sharma emphasized the relevance of skill development programme by highlighting the potential of entrepreneurship development in aquaculture due to its profit earning potential. Dr. Pramod K. Pandey, Dean, College of Fisheries, in his presidential address highlighted that scientific aquaculture has could indeed be an economically not only viable but a lucrative livelihood options in the NE region.

Various technological and field-based techniques were described to the participants through interactive discussions by about 19 resource persons and 3 guest lecturers from different Institutes such as Directorate of Fisheries, Govt. of Tripura, and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). At the beginning, a pre-training assessment was conducted with the trainee farmers and was edified to general discipline and dos and don'ts of class, laboratory and field. During the training programme, participants were exposed to different aspects of aquaculture including nursing, rearing & grow-out pond management, floating feed production and water quality monitoring involving both theory and practical demonstrations. Exposure trips to progressive farmers and department facilities were also conducted. Two training manual has been prepared (one in English and one in Bengali) in user-friendly language and the resource materials like compiled presentation slides containing comprehensive and focused information were distributed. The study materials provided incorporates 23 topics covering scope and prospects of aquaculture, food and feeding habits of fishes, site selection, grow-out management practices in aquaculture, feed and feeding strategies, integrated fish farming systems, disease management, economics of different culture systems, etc.

### **Field Visit sessions**

All the trainees of the skill development programme were given first-hand information and live demonstrations on various technologies at the field during 5 sessions of field visits in about 28 hours durations. The first visit was conducted ICAR research Centre for NEH region, Tripura Centre. Dr. Chandan Debnath, Scientist (Aquaculture)



demonstrated different integrated fish farming models suitable for North



eastern region of India. He demonstrated the concept of '4A's i.e. Aquaculture, Animal husbandry, Agriculture and Apiculture which gave the trainee farmers a broader outlook towards integrating their household resources for better utilization. Thereafter, the

participants went to Lembucherra Fish Seed Centre under Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of Tripura where they have experienced the operation of Pabda and chital hatchery operation and different aspects of farm management. Mr. Kamal Hossain, Fishery Officer, Lembucherra, Fish Seed Centre has given a brief account of different Govt. scheme for fish farmers and also assured the farmers about supply of fish seed on cash sale basis. A field trip was also undertaken at Kalyan Sagar, Udaipur to witness the operation of solar powered aerators and the artificial breeding ground for turtles. The participants visited four progressive farmers to get the practical exposure on commercial farm and hatchery operation. The participants took keen interest in integrated farming practiced by an entrepreneurial farmer Shri Amulya Das at Khilpara, Tripura with focus on mechanized dairy farming, in which dairy wastes are used in fishponds. The participants had live interaction with the entrepreneurs. The farmers also had a visit to Rudra Sagar, Melaghar to get an exposure on community management in openwater aquaculture where the participants were shown successful model of participatory approach for culture based capture fisheries.



## Valedictory session

The training program gracefully ended on 30th June 2018. Hon'ble Chief Whip, Govt. of Tripura, Smt. Kalyani Roy graced the upon the valedictory programme of the said training as chief guest and Shri Sunil Kumar, General Manager, NABARD, Tripura region as guest of honour. At the outset, course director Dr. Arun B. Patel welcomed all the dignitaries into the function and briefed the house that in total 25-resource persons conducted theory and practical sessions on different aspects of aquaculture in true spirit of the course module. Impressed by the experiences shared by the trainees from Tripura and Manipur in which they highlighted skills acquired, science understood and confidence gained, the chief guest, Smt. K. Roy deeply appreciated the conduct of 25-d skill development programme which is really required to inculcate the entrepreneurship spirit in youths and to make them job provider than the job seeker as is the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The guest of honour, Shri S. Kumar congratulated the participants and highlighted that this particular skill development programme can significantly contribute to the doubling of farmers' income. He encouraged the trainees to take calculated risk based on skills they have acquired so as to prosper in life. The president of the function, Dr. Pramod K. Pandey, thanked the chief guest and the guest of honour for the positive vibes about the course and highlighted the profit potential of aquaculture. He drew attention of dignitaries to the need of working of different agencies of the government including the people's representatives in convergence mode. The programme ended with vote of thanks proposed to all the dignitaries on-the dais and off-the-dais by Dr. Pradyut Biswas, Asst. Prof. (SS), Department of Aquaculture & Training coordinator. Dr. Biswas duly expressed his appreciations to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CAU, Prof. M. Premjit Singh for his patronage and keen interest, and thanked Director of Extension Education, CAU(I), Prof. R. K. Saha for his co-operation and support. The funding from NFDB, Hyderabad was duly acknowledged.

