

CIFRI conducted training-cum-workshop programme on ‘Pen aquaculture in beels of Assam’

The Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Regional Centre, Guwahati organized a training-cum-workshop on “Pen aquaculture in beels of Assam” at the Centre during May 27-29, 2014. A total of 13 fisheries extension officers/demonstrators/ contractual technical assistants working in the Directorate of Fisheries, Govt. of Assam in six districts (Kamrup, Golaghat, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Tinsukia) participated in the programme. Various aspects of pen aquaculture technology developed and refined by the Institute over the years including relevance of the technology in relation to fisheries enhancements in the beels of the state, pre-stocking management, various aspects of stocking, post-stocking management, feed and feeding management, health management and data keeping for techno-economic analysis of pen aquaculture were covered during the programme. An interactive workshop was organized on the last day of the programme wherein scientists of the Centre interacted with the participants on various aspects of pen aquaculture with a view to fine tuning the work programme of the collaborative pen aquaculture demonstrations scheme funded under NEH Component of CIFRI and being implemented by the Directorate of Fisheries, Govt. of Assam in 10 beels of Assam. The focal point of the interactive workshop was to prepare a beel-specific management plan in consultation with the respective field officials of the Directorate. The workshop was chaired by Dr. B.K. Bhattacharjya, Head of the Centre and co-chaired by Mr. M. Ahmed, Joint Director of Fisheries, Assam as well as Mr. Manoj Das, Sr. FEO, Directorate of Fisheries, Guwahati, Assam.

The valedictory session of the programme was held on the afternoon of May 29, 2014. Shri M. K. Deka, ACS, Director of Fisheries, Govt. of Assam graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Dr. H. C. Bhattacharyya, Director of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat as the Guest of Honour.

Dr. S. N. Goswami, Principal Scientist of the Centre welcomed the dignitaries and participants. Dr. Sona Yengkokpam, Scientist and Co-convenor presented the report and feedback on the programme, which showed that the participants found the programme to be largely useful.

Dr. B. K. Bhattacharjya, Head of Centre and Convenor of the programme highlighted the background and objective of the programme. He stated that the present programme was different than the earlier ones since the participants chosen were going to implement and monitor pen aquaculture demonstrations in their respective areas. Dr. Bhattacharjya informed the meeting that the Institute carried out successful demonstrations of pen aquaculture technology in 34 beels of Assam during 2012-13 in collaboration with AFDC Ltd., Guwahati (in 30 beels) and with Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar (4 beels). This year, similar collaborative demonstrations have been proposed in 10 beels in six districts of the state in collaboration with the Directorate. He extended confidence that the participants of the training programme would become resource



Dr. B.K. Bhattacharjya, Head of Centre, CIFRI Regional Centre, Guwahati highlighting the background and objectives of the training-cum-workshop. Seated on the right to left are Shri M.K. Deka, ACS, Director of Fisheries, Assam; Dr. H.C. Bhattacharyya, Director of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat and Dr. S.N. Goswami, Principal Scientist, CIFRI Regional Centre, Guwahati.

persons on pen aquaculture for training beel fishers and lessees in their respective place of posting. He urged the participants to sincerely implement and monitor the demonstrations in their respective districts.

Dr. H. C. Bhattacharyya, Director of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat, Assam stated that training programmes generally are directed to bring about changes in knowledge, skill and attitude of trainees. While the former two mostly depend on the resource persons, the latter solely depends on participants themselves. He felt that the present programme would be a successful one since the CIFRI scientists who were the developer of the technology directly trained the field-level fisheries officials. He also felt that the staff of the Directorate of fisheries should take advantage of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (which are usually a link between scientists and farmers for modern agricultural technologies) in their respective districts for technological backstopping.

Shri M. K. Deka, ACS, Director of Fisheries, Govt. of Assam felt that the programme would be a successful one. He urged the officials to implement this scheme very sincerely and make the demonstration project a grand success. He requested them to become disseminators of knowledge gained during this training-cum-workshop for the benefit of beel fishers. In response to the remark of Dr. Bhattacharyya, he said that the Directorate is thinking of strengthening the linkage with KVK's of Assam in near future for betterment of the fish farmers.

The programme ended with vote of thanks by Pronob Das, Scientist and Co-convener of the programme.



Group photo of the dignitaries with the participants and CIFRI staff