

# Event

## Capacity building of tribal women self-help groups on brackishwater aquaculture integrated with agro - based technologies — Tribal Subplan Training Programme at ~ CIBA, Chennai: 26-28 December, 2012

The Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (ICAR), Chennai, under the CIBA Tribal Sub Plan, organised a training cum programme of-marketing of farm made produce of women self help groups (SHGs) titled "Capacity building of tribal women self help groups on brackishwater aquaculture integrated with agro - based technologies".

Under the captioned event, a training programme, an exposure visit and an exhibition cum marketing of farm made produce of WSHGs was organised. Twenty scheduled tribal women self help group beneficiaries and five new *Irrular* tribal women SHG members from Kulathumedu village, Pulicat, New Perungulathur, Kancheepuram Dt., participated in this programme and got benefited.

### Training programme

The training programme started on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2012 with the inaugural session conducted at CIBA. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. B. Shanthi, Principal Scientist & Convener of the programme, followed by briefing on activities of the CIBA-Tribal Plan by Dr. S.M. Pillai, Principal Scientist & Nodal Officer, CIBA -Tribal Sub Plan. Inaugural address was delivered by Dr. A.R.T. Arasu, Director in-charge & Principal Scientist, HOD, Fish Culture Division, CIBA. A training manual, *Capacity building of tribal women self help groups on brackishwater aquaculture integrated with agro - based technologies - A training cum marketing of women self help groups farm made produce. CIBA Special Publication No.65* was released during the programme by Dr. B. Shanthi, convener of the programme.

The inaugural session was followed by the Technical Session, in which, lectures were delivered by experts on the topics (i) 'Nursery rearing of Asian Seabass in hapas' by Dr. A.R.T. Arasu, (ii) 'Development of farm made feeds' by Dr. K. Ambasankar, Senior Scientist, CIBA, (iii) 'Mushroom farming' by Dr. M. Velmurugan, Assistant Professor, KVK, (TANUVAS), Kattupakkam, (iv) 'Brackishwater ornamental fish (spotted scat) farming' by Dr. M. Kailasam, Principal Scientist, CIBA.

A few special lectures were also delivered by the Managers of State Bank of India and Indian Bank and the market agents dealing with ornamental fish marketing, fish feed and mushroom trading. These lectures greatly helped the beneficiaries to understand the financial aspects, such

as the bank procedures, obtaining loan for small scale farming activities by the SHGs and marketing strategies and linkages to dispose their farm produce.

### Exposure visit

An exposure visit to fish hatchery and feed mill at Muttukadu Experimental Station of CIBA was arranged on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The trainees had good exposure to the operations of fish hatchery and feed mill at the Muttukadu Experimental Station of CIBA. The Social Mobilisations and Group Cohesiveness Interaction Meet was also organised to strengthen the capacity among the trainees by Dr. B. Shanthi, Principal Scientist & Dr. P. Mahalakshmi, Scientist (SS), CIBA.

### Exhibition cum Sale

An exhibition-cum-sale programme of farm made produce of the women SHGs was organised in the forenoon of 27<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The farm made produce like fish feed, oyster mushroom, seabass seed, brackishwater ornamental fish (spotted scat), and shrimp pickles developed by beneficiaries were displayed in the exhibition stalls. The exhibition stalls were inaugurated by Mr. Ponnuraj, Assistant General Manager, State Bank of India, Chennai in the presence of Dr. A.G. Ponniah, Director, CIBA. The farm-made products were sold by the beneficiaries. Dr. M. Sakthivel, President, Aquaculture Foundation of India, Chennai visited these stalls and appreciated the beneficiaries for the elegant display of farm made products. As a systematic marketing strategy the visiting cards of the SHGs and proper bill books for selling their products, designed by CIBA, were distributed to the visitors and those who have purchased the products. This initiation helped the beneficiaries to learn the modern practical marketing techniques and to move forward with a transition from conventional fish vending methods to modern fishery and agro products marketing system.

### Valediction programme

The programme ended with the valedictory session on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2012 evening. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. B. Shanthi, followed by technology adoption by the beneficiaries. Adoption and experience



of nursery rearing of Asian Seabass in *hapas* was shared by the women SHG beneficiaries of Kulathumedu village, Pulicat, Tiruvallur Dt., Adoption and experience of 'Brackishwater ornamental fish (Spotted Scat) farming, oyster mushroom farming and fish feed processing was shared by different WSHGs beneficiaries of New Perungulathur, Kancheepuram dt.'

Seabass in *hapas* by WSHGs' and 'Brackishwater ornamental fish (spotted scat) farming by WSHGs' were released by Dr. M. Sakthivel, President, Aquaculture Foundation of India and the Chief Guest of the function, Dr. A.G. Ponniah and Dr. S.M. Pillai.

Followed by certificates distribution, the feed back of the training programme was given by some of the trainees. The programme ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. B. Shanthi, Principal Scientist and Convener of this programme.

Two well displayed posters on 'Nursery rearing of Asian



Director and scientist in the stalls



Dr. Sakthivel's visit to the stalls



Women self-help beneficiaries who participated in the event



Group photograph of the main participants



Dignitaries displaying main posters



Trainees at CIBA

## Academic visit of delegates from Universidad Juarez Autonoma de Tabasco (UJAT), Mexico to CIFE

A four member delegation, led by Dr. Jose Manuel Pina Gutierrez, Rector, UJAT, comprising Dr. M.C. Rosa Martha Padron Lopez, Director, DACBIOL, Dr. Martha Pererra and Dr. Jeane Rimber Indy, Professor Investigators visited CIFE on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2013. The delegation held a brief initial discussion on various aspects of academic and research collaboration between UJAT and CIFE with the Director, W.S. Lakra. In a formal group meeting, chaired by the Director, CIFE, and attended by Joint Director, Heads of Divisions and the members of the faculty of Aquaculture Division, the delegation made a detailed presentation about the University and their academic and research programmes and highlighted the areas of potential collaboration. A presentation on CIFE's academic and research activities were also made in the group meeting. The Mexican delegation showed keen interest in collaborating with CIFE and the Rector, UJAT indicated that visiting scholarship could be provided by the UJAT to the students of CIFE for short visit. He also indicated that there will be a possibility of faculty exchange between UJAT and CIFE. Director, CIFE suggested that CIFE can offer specialised training to the faculty as well as students of aquaculture from UJAT. The meeting was followed by a short visit of the delegates to various laboratories and facilities of CIFE.

## Telangana fishermen of AP demand minimum support price

It is reported that fishermen of Telangana demanded minimum support price (MSP) for fishes and setting up of sale points in all mandal headquarters for the convenience of fisher women.

Telangana Gangaputra Sangham (TGS) conducted Gangaputra Garjana programme at Kotagiri mandal headquarters recently.

MLA, Mr. Srinivas Reddy said that he would take the issue of minimum support price for fish to the notice of the government and take initiative for fish sale points in all four mandals of Nizambad district of A.P.

## Andhra Pradesh Govt. has imposed strict aqua guidelines

Andhra Pradesh Govt. has issued stringent guidelines for fish farmers. Any aquaculture pond or hatchery must be registered, and if any farmer is operating the facilities illegally, the government will impose a fine.

The government issued comprehensive and consolidated instructions and guidelines to consider the cases for regularisation of existing unregistered freshwater aquaculture farms and also for registration of new farms, it is reported. Other guidelines include the mixing or turning for fertile agricultural lands into aquaculture ponds and having farms located at least 10 meters from the nearest village or hamlet.