

EVENT

FARMERS-SCIENTISTS INTERACTION MEET : *Signing ceremony of MoU for Demonstration of Finfish culture options & Automatic feeder*



Fig 1: Exchange of copies of MoU between Dr.K.K.Vijayan, Director, CIBA and Mr.G.P.Babu



Fig 2 : Distribution of seeds to Mr.P.Thirunavukarasu



Fig 3: Distribution of seeds to Mr.J.Ramdas

Brackishwater aquaculture is a high potential area for increasing finfish and shell fish production for deriving maximum economic and social benefits. The Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA), Chennai has been making concerted efforts for diversification of aquaculture in India.

CIBA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with three farmers on 7th October 2014 at Muttukadu Experimental Station (MES), Muttukadu, Chennai for demonstration of finfish culture options & automatic feeder system. The main objective of the programme was to create awareness on cost-effective brackishwater culture technologies by providing technical advice and assistance to small scale farmers.

Dr.K.K.Vijayan, Director, CIBA, Dr.G.Gopikrishna, Principal Scientist & Head, (NGBD), Dr.S.V.Alavandi, Principal Scientist & Head (AAHED), Dr.M.Natarajan, Principal Scientist & SIC (FCD), Dr.V.S.Chandrasekaran, Principal Scientist & SIC (SSD), Dr.M.Muralidhar, Principal Scientist & Head of SIC Environment group, Dr.K.Ambasankar, Principal Scientist & SIC Nutrition Group, Technical staff and research scholars of CIBA were present on the occasion of MoU signing ceremony.

Dr.T.Ravisankar, welcomed the gathering and introduced to them, the dignitaries on the dais. Dr. K.K.Vijayan, Director, CIBA, in his introductory remarks pointed out the importance and intention of the programme in respect of creating awareness among the farmers and to extend support to them by providing the technical guidance in brackishwater aquaculture.

The activity on "Demonstration of Brackishwater options" was headed by Dr.(Mrs).D.Deboral Vimala, Principal scientist & Team leader, (SSD) along with Dr.T.Ravisankar, Principal Scientist, PI-ITM/BPD Unit, Dr.M.Kailasam, Principal Scientist (FCD), Dr.Akshaya Panigrahi, Principal Scientist (CCD), Dr.R.Saraswathy, Senior Scientist (AAHED), Dr. K.P. Kumaraguru Vasagam, Senior Scientist (NGBD), Mr.P.Kumararaja, Scientist (AAHED), Dr.Krishna Sukumaran, Scientist (FCD), Dr.T.Bhuvanewari, Scientist

(A A H E D) , Mr. Aritra Bera, Scientist (FCD) and Mr. S.Stanline, Senior Technical officer as team members. The MoU on this activity was signed between the farmer Mr.J.Ramdas, of M/s Seed fish farm (Thiruvallur District) and ICAR-CIBA.



Fig 4: Exchange of copies of MoU between Dr.K.K.Vijayan, Director, CIBA and Mr.J.Ramadas

The activity on "Demonstration of Solar powered and timer controlled automatic feeder" was headed by Dr.(Mrs). P. Nila Rekha, Principal scientist & Team leader, (CCD) along with Dr.K.Ambasankar, Principal Scientist & SIC Nutrition Group, Dr.Akshaya Panigrahi, Principal Scientist (CCD), Dr.J.Syama Dayal, Principal Scientist (NGBD) and Dr.K.P.Kumaraguru Vasagam, Senior Scientist (NGBD), and Mr.S.Stanline, Senior Technical Officer as team members. This MoU was signed between the farmers Mr.G.P.Babu, M/s New five star gold aqua (Chennai), Mr.K.P.Kumar, M/s MATS aquaculture (Ponneri Taluk) and ICAR-CIBA.

The fish seeds were distributed to the farmers, Mr.J.Ramdas (Thiruvallur dt), Mr.G.Ravi (Thiruvallur dt), Mr. P.Thirunavukarasu (Thiruvallur dt) and Mr.D.Prabhakar (Thiruvallur dt). Following this, the interaction session between the farmers and the scientists was held. During the session, farmers sought clarifications on pond preparation, Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS), Running Mortality Syndrome (RMS), mineral deficiency, *L. vannamei* culture in cages and disease management. They got their doubts cleared by the CIBA scientists. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. (Mrs).D.Deboral Vimala.

