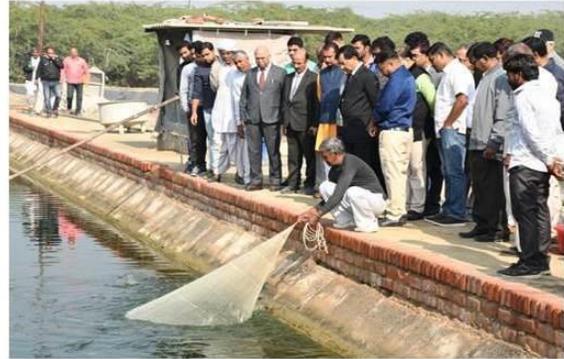


Sensitization Workshop and Farmers Meet on Inland Saline Aquaculture

A Farmer's cum Industrial Meet was organized at ICAR-CIFE Rohtak Centre on 8th Dec. 2018 under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) for creating awareness regarding eco-friendly and energy efficient usage of technologies for aquaculture in degraded inland saline soil and outreaching to the farmers and other stakeholders through demonstration of recent technologies. Farmers, scientists from different ICAR Institutions and industrial representatives from different fields of fish products, feed and feed additives participated in this program. Around 300 farmers from different districts of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Delhi participated in the Farmers Meet, along with 50 industrial representatives from different parts of the country.

The program started at 10.30 AM with the demonstration of harvesting of shrimp *L. vannamei*, cultured in inland saline water. Dr. P.K. Gosh (National Coordinator, NAHEP) was the chief guest of the occasion. Dr. Gopal Krishna, (Director ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai), Dr. P.C. Sharma (Director, ICAR-CSSRI), R.S. Malik (Joint Director, Dept of Fisheries, Govt of Haryana), Dr. D.S. Bundela (HoD, IDE Division, ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal), Dr. A. K. Reddy (Emeritus Scientist ICAR-CIFE), Dr. N.K. Chadha (HoD, Aquaculture Division, ICAR-CIFE), Dr. B. B. Nayak, (HoD of FRPHT Division ICAR-CIFE) and Dr. N. P. Sahu (HoD FNBP Division ICAR-CIFE) were also present. Dr. Gopal Krishna, (Director ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai) facilitated the Dr. P. K. Gosh (ICAR-National Coordinator NAHEP). The demonstration was carried out to motivate the framers for shrimp and fish culture in inland saline water. The farmers were appraised about the different activities like feeding, sampling, soil and water qualities testing etc. Farmers were very much excited to see the growth of the harvested shrimps. All the dignitaries expressed their satisfaction to see the harvestable size shrimp in inland saline water at the centre.



Farm Visit

After farm visit the exhibition ground was inaugurated by the chief guest Dr. P. K. Gosh. All the farmers and dignitaries visited all the stalls and interacted with the representatives from industries. The industry exhibited their vacant products like probiotics, growth promoter, products related to soil and water, different equipment's like aerators, feed manufacturing components. A live demonstration of preparing value added fish /shrimp products by ICAR-CIFE. There were around 30 stalls representing different industries like Neospark, Cargill providing outlook about different technologies and products used in fisheries sector.



Inauguration and visit of Exhibition stalls

The Farmers Meet was conducted immediately after the inauguration of the exhibition. Welcoming all, Dr. Gopal Krishna, Director, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai briefed about the research progress of CIFE during last 30 years and highlighted the achievement of CIFE in Inland saline aquaculture which has contributed significantly for economic upliftment of the farmers. This technology has proved a means to reclaim unutilized saline soil for culturing high value shrimp. Dr. N.K. Chadha and Dr. A.K. Reddy shared their experience of working on inland saline aquaculture and discussed various issues related to farming. Dr. D. S. Bundella spoke about techniques required to improve the quality of Inland saline soils in order to make it suitable for shrimp culture. The guest of honor Dr. P. C. Sharma (Director, ICAR-CSSRI), expressed his happiness for the outstanding contribution of CIFE for the reclamation of inland saline soil of the region. Dr. R.S. Malik (Joint Director, Haryana Fisheries Department) appreciated CIFE for the contribution towards the farming community of Haryana and expressed his commitments for partnering in the developmental activities of CIFE. The Chief Guest, Dr. P.K.Gosh explained about the expectation from the project and

Congratulated CIFE for the excellent pioneering work on inland saline aquaculture. He urged the farmers and other stake holder to be associated with CIFE and so as to extract maximum benefit from the outcome of the project. Few farmers also expressed their views regarding the culture in inland saline water and shared their aspirations and expectations from CIFE. At the end, Dr. N. P. Sahu proposed vote of thanks to all the participants.



Farmers Meet

The Industry meet started at 4:00 pm in the evening with an introductory remark by Dr. B. B Nayak, (HoD of FRPHT Division ICAR-CIFE). He explained the role of industry in accelerating the growth of fisheries sector in general and inland saline aquaculture sector in particular. He also urged all to establish linkage between institution and industries through institutional technology management unit (ITMU) and agri-business incubation (ABI) centers.



Industry Meet

Different representatives from the industries explained about their technologies, products and future outlook, along with the challenges faced by them. There was discussion between the scientists and the participants about the future prospects of inland saline aquaculture. The participants expressed their satisfaction for the new business avenue created due to adoption of inland saline aquaculture technology by the farmer of that region. During this meeting, Dr. Gopal Krishna (Director, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai) and Dr. P.K.Gosh (ICAR-National Coordinator, NAHEP) interacted with the stakeholder and urge them to closely work with CIFE. Director emphasized on the importance of linkages between industry and institution, cold chain establishment, solutions for transforming fish wastes to products. During the meeting the following key issues have been discussed between scientists and representative from various industries:

- Time consuming during transportation of harvested fish/shrimps as major problem, so storage facilities and other infrastructure has to be improved.

- Improving the quality of fish and shrimp seeds by proper seed production technology.
- Needs more attention on value added products for enhancing the profit margin of the farmers.
- Development of feed and feeding management technologies exclusively for inland saline water.
- Setting up of hatchery and processing units in Rohtak.
- Need of substitute for *L. vannamei* for farming in saline water

Dr. P. K. Ghosh requested all the participants to register their name at CIFE. Individual industry should sign a MoU indicating the modalities for executing the work. Finally vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Hari Krishna (OIC, Rohtak Centre ICAR-CIFE).