

## **Training cum workshop on “Clownfish Aquaculture” for the livelihood development of fishers of coastal Maharashtra**

ICAR-NBFGR established a master breeding facility at the premises of the Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Centre, Mangrove Foundation, Government of Maharashtra at Airoli, for mass-scale seed production of indigenous clownfishes for the livelihood development of the fishers of coastal Maharashtra. In order to popularize this initiative, the institute has conducted a series of training programs on the aspects of clown fish rearing for the potential beneficiaries and established cluster mode rearing units for their livelihood development. At present, 16 units were established, running at 15 villages in Sindhudurg & Ratnagiri Districts and 102 beneficiaries have adopted clownfish-rearing protocols successfully and earning regular income. About 1.5 to 2 months old clownfish seeds produced from the facility are being supplied to the beneficiary rearing units at free of cost. The supplied seeds are reared for two months by the beneficiaries, and marketed for enhancing their income. In this connection, the Bureau is organising training cum workshop in two batches on “Clownfish Aquaculture” in collaboration with the Mangrove Foundation, Government of Maharashtra during 16 - 19 May 2023. A total of 50 fishers from Palghar, Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts are participating in this programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr U.K. Sarkar, Director of the institute in the presence of Shri. Hrishikesh Rane, Assistant Director (Capacity Building), Mangrove Foundation, Government of Maharashtra. He encouraged the participants to adopt clownfish aquaculture as an alternate livelihood by establishing clownfish rearing units with the technical support from the institute. He also emphasised that the role of the effort in conserving fish genetic resources under changing climatic conditions. Various sessions on clownfish resources available in the country, clownfish rearing techniques, water quality management, feeding strategies, disease diagnosis & remedies, trade and marketing linkages and hands-on practical sessions on setting a biological filtration, testing kits handling to monitor water quality parameters, juvenile packing and transportation will be conducted.

