

Bridging conservation and livelihoods: ICAR-NBFGR's interventions in Lakshadweep

Agatti, 25.10.2025

As part of ICAR-NBFGR's activities on "Mainstreaming marine biodiversity in Lakshadweep for sustainable livelihood", a series of awareness and capacity building programmes were organised at Agatti Island, Lakshadweep by ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources under the STC/TSP scheme. Dr. Kajal Chakraborty, Director, ICAR-NBFGR, informed that such programmes aim to sensitise stakeholders and students on marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihood practices, and responsible fishing. ICAR-NBFGR conducted an awareness programme on "*Save the Ocean, Save Our Future*", with a drawing competition on "*Life Below Water*", on 21 October 2025; an awareness programme on "Technology dissemination for marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood" on 22 October 2025; an awareness programme on "*Our Island, Our Ocean, Our Responsibility*" with an essay competition on "Marine resources of Lakshadweep and threats faced" on 23 October 2025. Over 180 students and 100 women beneficiaries have participated in the events. 60 women islanders have also attended "Hands-on learning on marine ornamentals". The beneficiaries are motivated to establish community aquaculture units. Brochures in regional language, highlighting the importance of conservation of key marine organisms, were distributed to the beneficiaries along with the T-shirts and caps with a printed theme on marine biodiversity conservation. Shri Sudheer Reddy, IAS, Joint Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, graced the event along with Shri. Mohammed Iqbal, Principal, Government Senior Secondary School, Agatti and Shri. Ameer Bin Mohammed, Inspector of Police, Agatti. The programmes were coordinated by Dr. T. T. Ajith Kumar, Principal Scientist & Head, PAGR, ICAR-NBFGR; Dr. Rekha, M. U., and Dr. Teena Jayakumar T.K., Scientists, PAGR, ICAR-NBFGR, Kochi.

