## Joint Efforts by ICAR-NBFGR for Skill Enhancement and Resource Distribution among ST & SC Fish Farmers in West Bengal's Chotanagpur Plateau

Bolpur, West Bengal 14.01.2024

ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow, in collaboration with Dhaanyaganga Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sargachi, Murshidabad; Rathindra Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sriniketan, Birbhum and Hemnagar Sundarban Dream, West Bengal organised three sensitization and capacity development programmes for fish farmers of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities at different locations namely Sargachi, Murshidabad; Abinashpur, Suri, Birbhum and Sriniketan, West Bengal under the STC and SCSP Component during January 12-14, 2024. The programmes were organized in the presence of Dr. U.K. Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR; Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ATARI, Kolkata; Shri. Swami Viswamayananda, Ramkrishna Mishan, Sargachi; Dr. Vijay Kumar, Executive Director, NFDB; Prof. Debasis Sarkar, Dean, Institute of Agriculture, Visva-Bharati and several other eminent personalities. In the programmes, important aquaculture inputs such as quality fish seed of IMC and other high-value food fishes, fish feed, aquariums, FRP tanks for ornamental aquaculture etc. were distributed among over 250 beneficiaries. Dr. Sarkar encouraged the fish farmers to adopt fishery-based livelihood opportunities. This initiative marks a significant step towards enhancing the socio-economic status of marginalized communities in West Bengal through sustainable and profitable fish farming practices. Dr. Anutosh Paria, Scientist, ICAR-NBFGR along with Dr. Subrata Mandal, Head, RKVK, Sriniketan and Mr. G. Mustafa, Secretary, Hemnagar Sundarban Dream, WB coordinated the programmes.

