

Mission Navshakti: ICAR-NBFGR empowers 50 women from Scheduled Caste community through ornamental fish *Pathshala*

An Ornamental fish Aquarium Pathshala was organised for empowering women from Scheduled Caste community as a step towards livelihood empowerment under Mission Navshakti of SCSP Project. Fifty women from Scheduled caste community from four Self Help Groups namely Saraswathi SHG, Gurva SHG, Ambedkar SHG and Ekta SHG visited Ganga Aquarium and Museum of ICAR NBFGR as a part of Ornamental fish Aquarium *Pathshala* under Mission Navshakti. The *pathshala* concept is aimed at empowering and fostering livelihood opportunities through education in aquarium fish keeping and rearing as part of the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) project and gained valuable knowledge in a new sector for exploring avenues for economic empowerment. The women also visited Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden, Lucknow where they saw Machli *Ghar* maintained by women. The women maintaining the Machli Ghar inspired the group by showing themselves as an example that if women want, they can take up ornamental fish rearing and maintenance. These visits under *Pathshala* programme showcased avenues for skill development and interactive sessions for learning about exploring avenues in aquarium business. The new skills provides confidence needed for new livelihood opportunities in burgeoning aquarium fish industry, thus paving way for sustainable livelihood and for economic independence and transformation for a positive change. The project under SCSP component envisages to connect rural women with urban needs in ornamental fish sector. The project also aims at changing dynamics of village surrounding Barabanki district by training rural women and creating trained manpower in four villages, where women work only in fields with no alternative source of income. The main mission under the programme Mission Navshakti is to create alternative avenues of income generation among rural women. The work under SCSP project of ICAR NBFGR coordinated by Dr U K Sarkar, Director ICAR-NBFGR and Dr Poonam Jayant Singh, Nodal Officer SCSP project, Sh Ravi Kumar and Sh Amit Bisht of ICAR-NBFGR along with entrepreneur trainer namely Dr Suresh Chandra and Sh Indramani Raja. The visit of women who hardly venture out of their homes provided a an exposure for opening new doors for thinking about new avenues for earning income .



