

Stakeholder Meet-cum-Awareness Programme under SCSP Component at Sagar Island by ICAR-NBFGR

Sagar Island, 15.09.2024

ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow, in association with Hemnagar Sundarban Dream, successfully organized a Stakeholder Meet-cum-Awareness Programme at Gangasagar, Sagar Island, South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal on 15 September 2024. The event aimed at empowering the local community through sensitization, capacity development, technology demonstrations, and the distribution of essential fishery inputs under the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan component. Dr. U. K. Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR and Programme Convener highlighted the institutional efforts towards the conservation, development, and sustainable management of fish genetic resources. Dr. Sarkar further stressed that empowering the marginalized and vulnerable communities in the Sundarbans through such initiatives promotes socio-economic development and strengthens the ecological sustainability of this fragile and vital ecosystem. Dr. S. K. Das, Professor, Faculty of Fishery Sciences, West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences, emphasized the role of sustainable fish farming in community development. One of the highlights of the event was the distribution of the *Matsya Vikash Puraskar* certificates and essential fishery inputs to fish farmers. Over 100 fish farmers participated in the programme. The programme further included expert lectures on advanced techniques in fish breeding and hatchery management, water quality management, disease control in aquaculture, and the demonstration of the ReportFishDisease App. The event provided a platform for knowledge exchange and capacity building, empowering the local community towards achieving sustainable aquaculture practices.

