

Entrepreneurship Development among Scheduled Caste Women from Self-Help Groups through Skill development in Ornamental fish sector with minimal cost inputs

A three-day Skill Development Programme on Ornamental Fish Resources for Livelihood and Income Generation for Women Self Help Group Members was inaugurated at ICAR-NBFGR on 25th July 2023. The training programme focusses on developing entrepreneurial skills through potential business on ornamental fish among 20 women Self-Help Group Members from Scheduled Caste Member from below poverty line. Sh. Indra Mani Raja, Entrepreneur and owner of Aquaworld who works with women working in ornamental fish sector, spoke about his success story and how low-cost aquarium can be made with minimum inputs. The Convener of the training programme, Dr U K Sarkar Director ICAR-NBFGR, informed about being innovative to explore full potential of ornamental fish business. Dr Poonam Jayant Singh, Co-Convener of the training programme elucidated about coming out of comfort zone to establish business setup at small scale from their homes. Dr T. T. Ajith, Head PAGR-NBFGR, Kochi Unit spoke about community level success story at Lakshadweep island. During the occasion, a training manual entitles “सजावटी मछली पालन के अवसर और आजीविका तथा रोजगार सृजन की संभावनाएँ” prepared by SCSP team was released.

Further, Director ICAR-NBFGR, gave an overview of the ornamental fish business. He also appreciated women participants for taking initiative to attend the training program and assured technical guidance and support for Entrepreneurship form the Bureau with inputs from SCSP components Dr Paramita Banerjee Sawant Principal Scientist from CIFE informed about basics of aquarium upkeep and maintenance. Dr Abhinikha Jain Rane from OFTRI, Udaipur emphasised on types of fishes, their compatibility and also about basics of aquarium fishes. Dr B K Mahapatra, former HoD, CIFE, Kolkata informed the participants about breeding and culture of indigenous ornamental fishes.

Further, the Self-Group Women participants Smt. Arti, Smt. Bitto and Mrs. Anita Kashyap spoke about their experience in maintaining small aquarium in their home and how they would like to up-scale it for generating income by learning skill of breeding and rearing and maintenance of aquarium.



