

One-day Training program on Cage culture under SCSP project

Cage culture is a proven fish production technology in many Inland and Maritime States of India, but, in Tripura and many other NE States of India, it is still in the developmental phase with varying degrees of success. Tripura holds nearly 8000 hectare water area under the open water fisheries where the annual fish productivity is just 222 kg/ha. One of the reasons for such low productivity is lack of knowledge in the public domain about technologies fit in these water bodies for the production of fish. Tripura Govt. is very keen in diversifying the regional aquaculture adopting innovative technologies. They consider ICAR complex of Tripura as their knowledge partner for enhancement of open water fisheries following innovative ideas/interventions. It could be assumed that the annual fish productivity of open water fisheries which is at present is just 222 kg/ha would double if enclosure aquaculture technologies such as Cage culture and Pen culture are made popular among the fish farming communities through training, demonstration and capacity building program. Keeping that in view, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Tripura Centre organized a one-day training, demonstration and capacity building program on cage culture under Schedule Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) project on 23 September 2021. Total participants were 25 and they were the residents of Kakraban Sub-division, Gomati district, a place where fish farmers are highly progressive and keen to adopt innovative technologies. As technical persons, there was Dr. Chandan Debnath, Scientist SS (FRM) and Dr. Lopamudra Sahoo, Sr. Scientist (Aquaculture), ICAR, Tripura Centre. Cage culture was found very interesting and innovative to the participants. Till now, only duck farming or poultry farming in cages was known to them but now they learn fish farming is also possible in cages. They were very keen on learning the concept, thus, different aspects of cage culture and its relevance in the context of Tripura where fish consumption is excessively high was discussed in detail quoting examples from ongoing cage culture projects in Dumber Reservoir of Tripura and other States. In the recent days, Tripura State evidences flood or flood-like situations more, to response with such situations and to protect the fish from flee with flood water, the participants were encouraged for following Cage culture in low-lying areas. Farmers who don't have water bodies but interested for fishery are encouraged for fish farming by installing bamboo-made cages in rivers, wetlands, impoundments, forest water bodies, flooded land etc located nearby. Site selection, fabrication and installation of low-cost fish cages using locally available resources such as bamboo, wood, cane, etc, selection of fish species, their

stocking density, feeding, disease management, etc were also discussed. Among the fish species, emphasis was laid on Catla, Common Carp, Mono-sex Tilapia and Pangas as they display encouraging growth and survival in Tripura condition. Economic appraisal was also discussed and compared with pond fish farming. The participants were advised to build a community approach to avoid social issues like poaching, poisoning, etc occur during fish farming. At last, the participants were sensitized about Agromet advisory services (AAS) and Meghdoot App. by Er. Dhiman Das Choudhury, Technical Officer, ICAR, Tripura Centre and interested farmers were assisted in registering their mobile number with that App. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Chandan Debnath, Scientist SS (FRM) and Dr. Lopamudra Sahoo, Sr. Scientist (Aquaculture) and financial assistance was provided by SCSP project.



Participants in one-day training on Cage culture technology



Lecture about fabrication of low-cost fish cages, installation, etc by Dr. C. Debnath



Lecture about fish stocking, feeding, disease management, etc by Dr. L. Sahoo



Lecture about Agro-met advisory service by Er. Dhiman Das Choudhury