

ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana reached SC farmers of Bongaigaon, Assam with its SCSP training

ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana organized a 3 days training on **‘Entrepreneurship development on fish drying and pickle making techniques’** for Scheduled Caste farmers of Bongaigaon district of Assam during 10-12 February, 2021, in collaboration with District Fisheries Development Office, Bongaigaon. The 50 SC farmers (including men and women) of more than 10 different villages participated. The training is aimed to impart skill development through hand-on-training experience to farmers for fish safe handling, drying, preservation and product development from fishes, which in turn motivate them adopt any of these techniques as entrepreneurship for improving their socioeconomic status.

The program was organized under the guidance of Dr. Nachiket Kotwaliwale, Director, ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana and coordinated by Dr. A.U. Muzaddadi, Pr. Scientist and Nodal Officer, SCSP, and Dr. Guru P. N., Scientist in local coordination with Mr. Himangshu P. Das, FDO, o/o District Fisheries Development Office, Bongaigaon.

Dr. M. S. Lakshmi Priya, IAS, District Magistrate & Deputy commissioner, Bongaigaon District graced the occasion of inauguration along with Dr. P. Barman, DFDO, Mr. Himangshu P. Das, FDO and other staff of Department of Fisheries and KVK, District Institute of Education and Technology, and others. During the interactions, it was found that the training like this were most wanted by the local line departments to impart the skill development to enhance the farmers’ income. The district Bongaigaon is also a resourceful area for fisheries.

Dr. A.U. Muzaddadi delivered lectures on safe handling and transportation of fishes. He also briefed about the Government of India, Scheduled Caste Sub-plan (SCSP) and the activities of ICAR-CIPHET Ludhiana in the line of post-harvest technology and engineering. Dr. Guru P. N., highlighted the importance of post-harvest losses of fishes caused by insects. Dr. A.U. Muzaddadi, Dr. Himangshu Das along with Baban Kalita, Kalpajit Kalita and other staff of o/o DFDO took different sessions. The sessions were filled of lectures related to safe handling, drying, icing, preservation, transportation, fermentation, etc of the fishes with interestingly the hands-on experiences. An exposure visit was conducted in between on 11th February 2021 to a site near Sarthebari, Barpeta where a Hygienic Fish Drying Center was established by College of Fisheries, Raha with technical support from ICAR-CIFT (Cochin). Dr. Bipul Kr. Kakati, Asst. Professor, College of Fisheries, Raha demonstrated hygienic drying techniques and Mr. Inam Akhtar Hussain, Asst. Prof. of the same college demonstrated the preparation of fish pickles to the participants. On the 12th February 2021, the beneficiaries were trained in fresh fish preservation. Direct benefit materials/ inputs, a bilingual Training Manual (printed in Assamese and English) and the certificates were distributed amongst the beneficiaries on the same day and feedback from them were also taken.

Dr. P. Barman, DFDO, Bongaigaon (Assam) expressed his heartfelt congratulations for success of the training and thanked ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana for its initiative in organising a collaborative training for the benefit of SC beneficiaries of Bongaigaon (Assam). In future also, they promised to continue with the same spirit and cooperation to the institute.