

ICAR-CIFA organized a training programme on 'Freshwater ornamental fish culture' at Anand, Gujarat

Gujarat Research Centre (RRC) of ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), organized a training programme on 'Freshwater ornamental fish culture' during 17-19 November, 2015 at Anand, Gujarat. This programme was organized with the aim to train the participants with technical-knowhow about various aspects of ornamental fish breeding, culture and to assist them in establishing commercial ornamental fish breeding and culture unit. Twenty three participants from different districts of Gujarat such as Anand, Kheda, Vadodara, Panchmal, Mahisagar, Valsad, Gir-Somanath and Palghar district of Maharashtra attended the training programme. Participants included ornamental fish breeders, traders, beginners and students pursuing M.F.Sc from Kamadhenu University. Various technical sessions related to commercially important ornamental fishes, breeding and culture of common ornamental fishes, aquarium fabrication, aquatic plants, accessories for aquarium tank, water quality management, food and feeding of ornamental fishes, disease management, role of MPEDA in establishing ornamental fish farm etc. were organized. Participants also experienced with hands-on training on various aspects of glass aquarium fabrication, pellet feed preparation, green feed preparation and live feed culture such as artemia hatching and mix zooplankton culture.

At the backdrop of this event, Dr. P. Jaysankar, Director of ICAR-CIFA has asserted the need of organising such skill based training programme on ornamental fish culture as this sector is having ample opportunities in Gujarat and neighboring states for increasing the income, employment and foreign exchange earnings.

On the concluding part of training programme, Dr. P.P.Patel, Director of Extension Education of Anand Agricultural University (AAU) highlighted the benefits of fisheries sector including ornamental fish culture and emphasized for skill based certificate programme for food fish culture and ornamental fish keeping. Even, Prof. Nitin Akolkar, Dean of Fisheries faculty of Kamdhenu University on valedictory occasion wished all the participants to uptake the ornamental fish culture on entrepreneurial mode being generating huge foreign and domestic earnings. Similarly Shri Anand Meetej, SIC of Vadodara Research Centre of CIFRI focused the trading and conservation of indigenous ornamental fishes from Indian aquatic resources. Earlier in the inauguration of the programme Dr. P. M. Bhatt, Director, Institute of Distance Education of Anand Agricultural University briefed the history of fish keeping in palaces by kings and how it evolved on to become world's biggest hobby. Dr. G.G. Patel, Programme Co-ordinator, KVK, Devataj, Anand, Gujarat expressed about the scope of ornamental fish industry in livelihood improvement of people.

Dr. C.K.Misra, Scientist In-Charge of Anand Research Centre of ICAR-CIFA and Director of the course narrated the potentialities of ornamental fish keeping industry in Gujarat and neighbouring states in comparison to entire India. The programme was co-ordinated by CIFA Scientists Shri Ajit Chaudhari and Sunil S Ail and SMS of KVK, AAU, Anand Shri Jaimin Bhat.

