

Awareness Programme on Integrated Wetland Management for Kanwar Lake Farmers on World Fisheries Day 2025 – Organized by ICAR RCER, Patna

On the occasion of World Fisheries Day 2025, ICAR-RCER Patna organized an extensive awareness programme on *Improving Fish Farmers' Livelihoods through Integrated Wetland Management* at Kanwar Lake. Kanwar Lake is Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake, located in Begusarai District of Bihar. Owing to its ecological richness



Integrated Duck-Fish Farming near Kanwar Lake

and hydrological characteristics, it plays a crucial role in sustaining fisheries and supporting the livelihoods of thousands of wetland-dependent communities. The lake environment is ideal for culture-based fisheries, integrated fish farming and community-based management initiatives. Promotion of scientific fishery practices can significantly enhance fish productivity in this lake. Therefore, this programme was conducted at Kanwar Lake with an aim to enhance scientific knowledge of fisheries management and diversification of wetland-based livelihood among local farmer families.



Farmers receiving inputs

The event was organized by ICAR RCER, Patna under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Begusarai. A total of 50 Scheduled Caste farmers from the Kanwar Lake region participated in the programme. In the programme importance and economic benefits of scientific management of integrated fish farming over traditional agricultural practices were discussed. Farmers were sensitized to key components for enhancing aquaculture productivity, including optimal stocking density, water quality management, fish health management, and feed and feeding strategies, along with their associated advantages.



Farmers receiving inputs

Comprehensive technical guidance was provided for development of Integrated Fisheries Model, with emphasis on seasonal vegetable cultivation along pond embankments to improve household income and nutritional security. The significance of community-based aquaculture, particularly in large wetland ecosystems such as Kanwar Lake, was also highlighted. Additionally, farmers were apprised of relevant central and state government schemes supporting aquaculture and wetland development. To encourage adoption of integrated fish farming in the region, essential inputs including fish feed and seasonal vegetable seeds were distributed to establish nutri-gardens. Farmers were assured that technical support and capacity-building initiatives for sustained livelihood improvement will be carried out for the farmers.

The programme was attended by Dr. Kamal Sarma, Head, Division of Livestock and Fisheries Management; Dr. Ujjwal Kumar, Head, Socio-Economic and Extension; Dr. Vivekanand Bharti, Scientist, Dr. Tarkeshwar Kumar, Scientist; and Mr. Amarendra Kumar, Technical Officer from ICAR-RCER, Patna. From KVK Begusarai, Dr. Ram Pal, Head, and Dr. Vipin, SMS, participated along with Mr. Anish Kumar, Krishi Salahkar, Ekamba Panchayat, and Mr. Ashirbad, a progressive farmer.

Source: ICAR RCER, Patna



Interaction with the farmers



Participates in the programme

