

## North-eastern Farmers Learn Integrated Farming Techniques at ICAR-RCER Patna

A four-day capacity building cum input support program for farmers from the north-eastern states was successfully organized at the ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region (ICAR-RCER), Patna. Supported by the institute's North Eastern Hill (NEH) component fund, the program witnessed active participation from 27 progressive farmers and entrepreneurs from Assam, Sikkim, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Nagaland.



### Program Inaugurated on February 21

The training program was inaugurated on **February 21** under the guidance of the institute's Director, Dr. Anup Das. The inaugural session was attended by a distinguished panel of scientists, including Dr. Ujjwal Kumar (Head, DSSE), Dr. Ashutosh Upadhyaya (Head, DWLM), Dr. Kamal Sharma (Head, DLFM), and Dr. P. C. Chandran.

Addressing the farmers, Dr. Anup Das encouraged them to adopt farming not merely as a means of livelihood but as a profitable enterprise. During an interactive session, a farmer from Assam highlighted the challenge of low vermicompost prices (₹4-5 per kg) in his state, while a woman farmer from Meghalaya informed the gathering that the same product sells for ₹20 per kg in her region. In



response, Dr. Das suggested the farmers develop an 'inter-state marketing system' to benefit from this price disparity. Dr. Ujjwal Kumar urged the participants to become 'brand ambassadors' of modern agricultural techniques in their native regions. Dr. Ashutosh Upadhyaya and Dr. Kamal Sharma emphasized optimal resource utilization and management, while Dr. Vivekanand Bharti provided insights into high-value fish farming and nutritional disease management.

### Farm Visits to ICAR-RCER, Patna and Mohanpur Fish Hatchery Nalanda

As a crucial part of the training, the 27-member farmers' group undertook two significant farm visits. The first was an extensive tour of the **ICAR-RCER institute farm**, led by Dr. Biswajit Debnath (Senior Scientist), Dr. Tarakeshwar Kumar (Scientist), and Mr. Amarendra Kumar (Technical Officer). During this visit, the farmers closely observed the institute's **Integrated Farming System (IFS) model**, which starkly contrasts with their traditional methods. Dr. P. C. Chandran guided them on advanced animal husbandry practices, while

Technical Officer Abhishek Kumar demonstrated modern crop production techniques. The farmers learned how to select crops suitable to their local climate and geography to maximize the utility of every piece of land.

The second visit was organized to the Mohanpur Fish Seed Production Centre in Nalanda district, where Centre operator Mr. Shivji provided practical knowledge on the breeding of major carp species like Catla, Rohu, Mrigal, and Grass Carp, along with critical aspects of water quality and disease management.



### **Valedictory Program and Input Distribution on February 23**

The four-day program concluded with a valedictory session held on **February 23**. The session was graced by Dr. Abhishek Dubey, along with scientists Dr. Ashutosh Upadhyaya, Dr. Kamal Sharma, Dr. P. C. Chandran, Dr. Vivekanand Bharti, Dr. Biswajit Debnath, and Dr. Tarakeshwar Kumar.

The highlight of the closing ceremony was the distribution of essential agricultural inputs and certificates to the participating farmers. Each farmer was provided with a kitchen garden seed packet, a hand cultivator, a hand weeder, a 2-inch khurpi, and a 1-inch khurpi. Certificates of participation were also awarded to all 27 farmers, recognizing their successful completion of the training program.

The farmers expressed their deep appreciation for the guidance provided by the ICAR-RCER scientists and the world-class facilities at the institute. They stated that the knowledge gained and the inputs received would bring a revolutionary change to their farming practices in their respective home states.



**Source: ICAR RCER, Patna**