

Capacity-Building Initiatives by ICAR-DCFR to Promote Sustainable Rainbow Trout Farming in Sikkim

The ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research (ICAR-DCFR) as part of its capacity-building efforts in the Northeast Region, is conducting training programmes for extension officials and fish farmers of Sikkim for rainbow trout farming. A total of 120 nominated participants, representing all six districts of Sikkim would complete the training in six groups. Four batches from the Soreng and Pakyong districts have already completed the training successfully. These training sessions, which are being conducted at the ICAR-DCFR Field Centre, Champawat and headquarter Bhimtal, are designed to improve the knowledge and skills of the Extension Officials of the line department and fish farmers of Sikkim. The programme covers a range of topics, including techniques for large-scale trout breeding, hatchery and nursery management, post-stripping brooder care, efficient cost-effective feeding methods, health management, value addition, and marketing strategies. Each five-day course comprises 10 theoretical sessions and 15 practical modules and also includes climate-resilient farming techniques, such as Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS) for both seed production and table-size fish production. Considering the rapid expansion of rainbow trout farming in Sikkim and the paramount importance of access to quality seed, there is an urgent need for skilled personnel to manage the farm to ensure both profitability and sustainability. These programmes are being organized as per the demand of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Sikkim.

In the opening session, Director Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey appealed trainees to utilize this opportunity for improving their skills and expertise and informed that the Government of India and ICAR are promoting fish farming in the northeast through a number of schemes and incentives. He conveyed his appreciation to Ms.Roshni Rai, Secretary, Sikkim State Fisheries Department and Director Shri K.K.Shrestha for promptly nominating participants and hoped that these skill development learning would greatly enhance their farm management abilities and would contribute in bringing prosperity among the farmers of Sikkim state, where demand and market value for rainbow trout is very high. The training programmes are being coordinated and organized by scientists Dr. Suresh Chandra, Dr. S.K. Mallik, Dr. Kishore Kunal, and Dr. Garima from the Directorate.



Certificate distribution to Sikkim participants



Sikkim State Dept. Extension officials and Fish farmers at ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal

