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Name of the Institute: ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research, Bhimtal

ICAR-DCFR organised a special drive to make aware of Safai Maitraon various Government Yojanas on the occasion of "Special Campaign on Swachhata Mission" 2024

The Swachhata Mission is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at promoting cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation across the country. As part of this mission, the role of Safai Maitras (Sanitation workers) is crucial. ICAR-DCFR organised a special drive to make aware of Safai Maitraon various Government Yojanas on the occasion of "Special Campaign on Swachhata Mission" 2024. The programme was held on 29.09.2024 at the committee room of ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal. More than 25 Safai Maitras (Sanitation workers) were invited to participate in this campaign. The campaign started with a brief presentation about the time-line of Swachha Bharat Mission lunched by Govt. of India followed by the dissemination of information on various government yojanas (schemes) designed to support and empower Safai Maitras, ensuring their welfare and recognition in society. The key features of this campaign on government yojanas (schemes) are stated as follows:

- (1) **Incentives for Safai Maitras:** It provides regular information about Regular wages and additional financial support for sanitation workers.
- (2) **Training Programs:** Imparts information about the skill development initiatives to enhance the capabilities of Safai Maitras, ensuring they are well-equipped to handle modern sanitation challenges.
- (3) **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY):** Primarily a housing scheme, which indirectly benefits Safai Maitras by providing affordable housing to workers, ensuring they have stable living conditions and developing community facilities that include sanitation facilities, improving the working conditions for Safai Maitras.
- (4) **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):** It guarantees a minimum of 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household. It provides employment opportunities for Safai Maitras, who can avail of guaranteed employment for sanitation-related work, providing them with financial security. It also focusses on skill development, enabling workers to take on various sanitation and environmental projects.
- (5) **National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM):** It aims to reduce poverty by promoting self-employment and wage employment. It encourages Safai Maitras to form self-help groups and engage in waste management enterprises. It also provides training to enhance employability in various sanitation and hygiene sectors.
- (6) **Swachh Survekshan:** It is a national cleanliness survey that not only evaluates cities but also recognizes the efforts of Safai Maitras.
- (7) **The Manual Scavenging Prohibition Act:** It aims to eliminate the practice of manual scavenging and ensures welfare schemes, training and employment for Safai Maitras to engage in dignified work.

The programme concluded that the celebration of the Special Campaign on Swachhata Mission highlighted the importance of Safai Maitras in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene. The various government yojanas outlined above may enhance their working conditions and provide essential support for their welfare and empowerment. The campaign was led by Dr R. S. Patiyal, Principal Scientist, Mr Baldev Singh, Chief Technical Officer, Mr T.M. Sarma, Technical officer (T-6) Mr Pratap Singh Bisht, Assistant, Audit Section, and Mr S K

Mallik, Scientist of this directorate.

