

## **Report on “National Fish Farmers’ Day” on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2021**

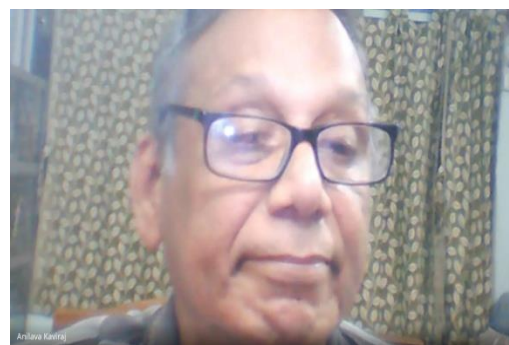
- **Proceedings of the Event:**
  - **Name of the Biotech KISAN Hub and its collaborating Institutes**  
DBT Mission Mode Programme Entitled “Establishment of Biotech-KISAN Hub” at West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences at Aspirational districts of WEST BENGAL
  - **Title of the event** “National Fish Farmers’ Day”
  - **Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2021. 5.30 PM
  - **Venue:** Farmers’ Hostel, Belgachia, Kolkata (Virtual mode)
  - **Meeting link :** Google Meet App link <https://meet.google.com/oos-juvr-gmx> live steaming in YouTube with following links  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChQKD16EQtTsPhem118kBIA?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChQKD16EQtTsPhem118kBIA?view_as=subscriber)
  - **Total Number of Participants**  
**209** fish farmers (Male-93, female-116) of West Bengal participated in the training programme. **156** farmers from aspirational district (Nadia, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Maldahh and South Dinajpur)
  - **Invited Guests**
    - 1) **Dr Joykrushna Jena**, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), ICAR
    - 2) Prof Chanchal Guha, Vice Chancellor, WBUAFS
    - 3) **Prof Anilava Kabiraj**, Retd. Professor, University of Kalyani
    - 4) Prof. Bipul Kumar Das, Director of Research, Extension and Farms (Actg), West Bengal University of Animal and Fisheries Sciences.

### **Brief about the programme**

Biotech KISAN Hub, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences has celebrated National Fish Farmers’ Day (NFFD) virtually on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 at 5.30 PM to acclaim fish farmers for their contribution to the national economy and food/nutritional security, making India the second largest fish producer of the world with aims to draw attention to changing the way the country manages fisheries resources to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems. Since the India is going to celebrate 75 years of Independence as “AZADI KI AMRITMOHOTSAV”, the event was made to honour the fish farmers, aquapreneurs, fisher folks, stakeholders and whoever else is associated in the fishery for their contribution in the fishery because of their contribution in national economy by sustainable harvesting of a wide variety of inland and marine fisheries resources in the country. The day is commemorated every year to salute Indian scientists Dr. Hiralal Chaudhri, and Dr. K. H. Alikunhi for gifting the world the induced fish breeding technology and lifting Indian aquaculture with ‘Blue Revolution’. The event marked with participation of 209 Fish farmers of West Bengal who have shared their experiential journey into aquaculture. As part of observing National Fish Farmers Day, the **Farmers’ Awareness Programme** on virtual events in the wake of the lockdown regulations to create

awareness about the scientific aquaculture practice among the fish farmers of West Bengal particularly in Aspirational districts.

At the onset Prof. Bipul Kumar Das, Director of Research, Extension and Farms (Actg) and Dean, Faculty of Fishery Sciences, West Bengal University of Animal and Fisheries Sciences, welcome all the participants in the virtual platform. He expressed his high level satisfaction for overwhelming participation of the rural fish farmers in such pandemic situation to hear the thought of renounced personalities like **Dr Joykrushna Jena**, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), ICAR and **Prof Anilava Kabiraj**, Retd. Professor, University of Kalyani and other dignitaries. Addressing in the event, **Dr Joykrushna Jena**, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), ICAR gave emphasis on the need enhancement of fish seed production and conservation of endangered fish species. He said that, a detail plan to be evolved to meet up the domestic needs of over 10.5 million people of West Bengal considering the fact of non-availability of quality fish seed and lack of scientific culture know-how. He told that the DBT funded mission mode programme Biotech KISAN Hub is creating impact among the fish farmers of West Bengal by increasing knowledge and skills for doing aquaculture and thus it bridges the gap between needs and skills. An eminent professor and renounced scholar, Prof **Anilava Kabiraj**, Retd. Professor, University of Kalyani urged about diversified fish culture and maintenance of fish species harbored in natural water buddies like khal, bil etc. He emphasized that creation of small and medium entrepreneur in the rural Bengal for enhancement of fish production which will satisfy the need of the people. In his precedential address Prof. Chanchal Guha, VC, WBUAFS elaborately describe the importance of these days and role of the fish farmers towards scientific aquaculture practice. He assured that the university people will reach to every door of fish farmers in coming decades with their full knowledge and resource. Giving formal vote of thanks Dr. Keshab Chandra Dhara, Principal Investigator, Biotech KISAN Hub, West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences, while addressing the fish farmers said periodical interactions with the farmers to help scientists and line departments understand the actual need of the farmers and help them for linking with the consumers.



At the end of programme, one of participant farmers Palirani Sahoo from Kultali block of South 24 pgs. of West Bengal express her gratitude for arranging Farmers training programme in a scheduled way in this Covid-19 pandemic too. This farmers training helped to get her knowledge about water testing, pH testing, Use of calcium carbonate, feeding procedure of fish, breeding of fish etc. Another farmer Mr. Manabendra Das from



Barasat North 24 Pgs of West Bengal express the impact of such programme on the Aqua farmers as well as sheared his experience of whole programme. Mr. Saaddam Hossain Mandal from Murshidabad district of West Bengal talked about his experience as a beginners and express his gratitude to whole Bio-Tech KISAN Hub team to conduct such a programme with rural and marginal farmers and share such information with them.