



## **ICAR-CIARI Sensitizes JNRM Students on Fisheries, Aquaculture & Agro-Entrepreneurship Opportunities**

Sri Vijaya Puram, Apr 10: The ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI) conducted a sensitization programme on 9 April 2026 for 30 students and faculty members from the Zoology Department of Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya (JNRM).

Dr M. Muruganandam, Head of the Fisheries Science Division (FSD), ICAR-CIARI, highlighted the vast opportunities available in fish and fisheries resources in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He elaborated on the growing demand for ornamental fishes among hobbyists and in recreational and decorative landscape sectors, emphasizing their role as stress relievers. He also shared insights into watershed-based fisheries, including water harvesting and fish farming potential in the region. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of key input such as quality fish seeds, and feeds besides water quality management and biomass optimization for enhancing productivity, profitability, and economic returns in fish farming.

Dr Praveenraj, Senior Scientist, FSD, explained the biological characteristics, feeding habits, and breeding patterns of various ornamental fish species at the Aquarium. He emphasized how scientific understanding of these aspects can help develop successful ornamental fish enterprises and create strong entrepreneurial opportunities.

Dr Chittranjan Raul, Scientist, FSD, provided detailed information on carp breeding techniques, seed production, feeding practices, and water quality management essential for aquaculture success.

The programme also witnessed the participation of technical staff including Chandan Kumar (Technician) and Sonia (Project Staff), along with other members of the Fisheries Science Division.

In addition, scientists and staff from the Natural Resource Management Division of ICAR-CIARI demonstrated vermicomposting techniques and highlighted associated entrepreneurial opportunities. The students engaged in interactive sessions with the scientists and gained first-hand exposure to various agro-technologies, agrotourism, recreational avenues, and entrepreneurship prospects beyond conventional food production systems.

The program was coordinated by Dr Vivek Kumar Sahu, Assistant Professor and Ms S Pushpa Lata, Guest Faculty of JNRM. The students and faculty members of JNRM expressed their gratitude to the scientists and staff of ICAR-CIARI for the informative sessions and enriching hands-on experience.