

NICOBAR TIMES

CIARI Conducts Sensitisation Programme for JNRM Zoology Students on Fisheries and Agro-Technologies



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The ICAR–Central Inland Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI) organised a sensitisation programme for 30 students and faculty members from the Zoology Department of Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya (JNRM) on April 9, 2026, offering insights into fisheries, aquaculture, and emerging agri-based entrepreneurial opportunities in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Dr. M. Muruganandam, Head of the Fisheries Science Division (FSD), highlighted the vast potential of fishery resources in the Islands. He spoke on the increasing demand for ornamental fishes among hobbyists and in decorative and recreational sectors, noting their growing popularity as stress relievers. He also elaborated on watershed-based fisheries, including water harvesting and fish farming prospects in the region. Emphasising sustainable practices, he underscored the importance of quality fish seeds, feed management, water quality, and biomass optimisation to enhance productivity and profitability.

Dr. Praveenraj, Senior Scientist, FSD, briefed participants on the biological traits, feeding behaviour, and breeding patterns of ornamental fish species at the institute's aquarium facility. He highlighted how scientific knowledge in these areas can support the development of successful ornamental fish enterprises and open avenues for entrepreneurship.

Adding to the technical sessions, Dr. Chittranjan Raul, Scientist, FSD, shared detailed insights into carp breeding techniques, seed production, feeding strategies, and water quality management essential for successful aquaculture practices.

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

In a parallel session, scientists and staff from the Natural Resource Management Division demonstrated vermicomposting techniques and highlighted related entrepreneurial opportunities. The interactive programme enabled students to gain hands-on exposure to various agro-technologies, agrotourism initiatives, and recreational avenues beyond conventional food production systems.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Vivek Kumar Sahu, Assistant Professor, and Ms. S. Pushpa Lata, Guest Faculty, JNRM. The participants expressed gratitude to the scientists and staff of ICAR-CIARI for the informative sessions and practical learning experience.