Centurion
UNIVERSITY
Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...

EVENTS FOR LOCAL FARMERS AND FOOD PRODUCERS

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1. Social Impact: Adopted Villages

Centurion University places a significant emphasis on community engagement, exemplified by its adoption of five villages by the M S Swaminathan School of Agriculture: Barlanda, Jhamiguda, Parsurampur, Thotagumuda, and Rautpur. This initiative is committed to advancing sustainable agricultural practices and receives financial support from the National Skill Development Corporation in New Delhi, India. Launched in 2016, the project spans a decade. Since its inception, it has effectively trained 3,657 farmers in sustainable agricultural methods. These training efforts encompass a range of vital practices, including organic farming, soil nitrogen fixation, vermicomposting, and the implementation of playhouses. Centurion University's enduring commitment to these villages underscores its dedication to fostering enduring positive change in local communities through education and sustainable agricultural development.

2. Farmers Training: Agricultural Technology Management Agency

In the year 2022, the School of Agriculture and Fisheries collaborated with the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) to organize a comprehensive farmer training program. A total of approximately 75 farmers actively participated in this enriching initiative, which spanned two days. During the first day of training, sessions were dedicated to various aspects of aquaculture, including ornamental fish culture, carp culture, and practical hands-on training in aquarium fabrication. Participants also received valuable insights into pre-stocking and post-stocking management in fish culture. To enhance the learning experience, the farmers had the opportunity to visit our state-of-the-art wet lab units, where they observed the rearing of ornamental fishes, as well as food fishes like Tilapia and Amur carp, in specially designed glass and cemented tanks.

During the second day of the program, the farmers were assigned to our fish processing plant. During this period, the individuals acquired significant practical knowledge in the process of creating fish pickles, shrimp pickles, and other value-added fishery products. The participants were provided with a valuable opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, enabling them to investigate the various opportunities available and potentially generate income for their livelihoods.

The ATMA farmers' training program was well implemented and garnered exceedingly favorable responses from the participants. The platform provided a significant opportunity for farmers to acquire knowledge about the extensive prospects in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, specifically in the previously unexplored area of Parlakhemundi.

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3. Capacity Building Events

3.1. All India Training and Demonstration Programme on “Healthy Shrimp and GIFT Tilapia Culture Using Biofloc Technology”

The capacity-building workshop conducted on July 14, 2022, was specifically tailored to enhance the knowledge and competence of local farmers across several areas of interest. The objective of this educational workshop was to offer valuable guidance and mentorship to the farming community. It was conducted in collaboration with the School of Fisheries, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) in Hyderabad, and Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu.

The session provided comprehensive support to a group of 55 farmers, addressing a variety of themes and delivering valuable insights and ideas. The contents encompassed Biofloc aquaculture, Aquaponics, Zero water cultivation systems, Aqua mimic techniques, and various other pertinent topics. The participants of this thorough program acquired essential knowledge and skills that have the potential to greatly influence their farming methods and improve their overall productivity.

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3.2. Webinar on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Livelihood, Food and Nutritional Security and a Zero Hunger World

The primary aim of the webinar, conducted on the 22nd and 23rd of June 2021, was to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and promote awareness surrounding the central issue of "Fish for All for Ever." The primary objective of the webinar was to advance sustainable development in the fisheries and aquaculture industries in India through the effective integration of research, education, and extension initiatives.

The objective of this integration was to achieve a symbiotic relationship between human requirements and the natural environment, highlighting the significant contributions of these domains at a worldwide level.

The program attracted a wide range of attendees, including respected faculty members, energetic students, and government officials who demonstrated a strong interest in the topic at hand. The overall attendance numbers were really noteworthy, as 97 farmers, in addition to 113 students and staff members, actively participated in the debates and sessions focused on exchanging expertise. The webinar provided a notable venue for the exchange of ideas, insights, and strategies with the objective of advancing the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in India for future progress.

The School of Fisheries organized a thorough capacity-building workshop on January 2, 2022, with a significant emphasis on the crucial role of fisheries in the Indian economy. The aforementioned notable occurrence brought together a heterogeneous assembly, consisting of students, faculty members, and local farmers, and it was orchestrated as a physical assembly.

The program had a significant impact, with a noteworthy attendance of 119 eager farmers, as well as the active involvement of students and staff members. The primary aim of this workshop was to foster a greater level of consciousness and comprehension among the participants regarding the significant economic opportunities inherent in the fishing sector. The program aimed to shed light on the diverse contributions of fisheries to the Indian economy, through interactive discussions and instructive seminars. This endeavour left a lasting impact on all participants.

4. Conducting awareness program for the fisherman communities

Between March 20th and March 30th, 2022, the School of Fisheries conducted an extensive sample survey within communities of fishermen. The study included the utilization of a standardized questionnaire to investigate multiple facets of fishing and aquaculture methodologies. The results of this survey unveiled significant insights, suggesting that the local fishermen displayed a conspicuous lack of care regarding the sustainable extraction of fish from natural resources.

Based on the findings of the survey, the School of Fisheries implemented proactive measures to develop efficacious strategies focused on educating and fostering awareness among the fishing community. These projects placed significant emphasis on the cruciality of sustainable resource utilization. Active student participation in connecting with the local fish farmers constituted a crucial component of these endeavors.

The diligent students of the educational institution adopted an experiential learning method by actively engaging with the nearby fish farming communities. The main goal of their endeavor was to disseminate knowledge and advocate for the use of optimal strategies in the field of fishery management. The primary objective of the students' direct encounters was to foster a heightened sense of responsibility and awareness among the fishermen, ultimately making a positive contribution to the sustainable utilization of crucial aquatic resources.

In order to foster a fruitful relationship, it is imperative for universities to create explicit standards pertaining to access, provide comprehensive training on equipment and safety protocols, and ensure the availability of laboratory facilities to farmers throughout pertinent periods, such as planting and harvest seasons.

In summary, the endeavor to grant local farmers the opportunity to utilize university facilities such as laboratories presents a potentially fruitful approach for fostering collaboration between the realms of academia and agriculture. The aforementioned statement encapsulates the core principles of knowledge dissemination, inventive thinking, and environmentally conscious agricultural methods, which are vital in tackling the obstacles faced by contemporary farming. The ongoing collaborative endeavor exhibits promising prospects in terms of transforming agricultural practices and fostering a sustainable and profitable future for the agriculture sector.