

Government of Meghalaya
Department of Information & Public Relations
Shillong

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Education Minister Attends Training cum Workshop
on Advanced Aquascaping and Aquarium Management

The Hon'ble Education Minister of Meghalaya attended the Training cum Workshop on Advanced Aquascaping and Aquarium Best Management Practices organised by the ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries Science, St. Anthony's College, Shillong, and in association with the Department of Fisheries, Government of Meghalaya.



The programme witnessed the presence of the Joint Director, Department of Fisheries, Government of Meghalaya, Mrs. D.G. Lyngdoh; Dr. Debajit Sarma, Principal Scientist and Head, Division of Aquaculture, ICAR-CIFE Mumbai; officers from the Fisheries Department, faculty members, students, and farmers from across Meghalaya.

The event commenced with a welcome address by the Rector of St. Anthony's College, Fr. A. L. Jose. This was followed by an address from Dr. Debajit Sarma, who highlighted the vast potential of aquaculture and ornamental fisheries in the region. Mrs. D.G. Lyngdoh also addressed the gathering, emphasising the importance of sustainable practices and government support for fisheries development.



In his address, the Hon'ble Minister underscored the opportunities and challenges facing India as a young nation, aligning with the vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047. He reiterated the commitment of the State Government to transform Meghalaya into a \$10 billion economy by 2028,

stressing that achieving this goal requires active participation from all stakeholders, particularly the youth.

The Minister highlighted Meghalaya's rich natural ecosystem and the untapped potential of ornamental fish species found in the state, noting that several species are unique and highly valuable. He acknowledged that while the State's Aquaculture Mission, launched in 2012, has made progress, it remains a work in progress with significant scope for growth.

Emphasising awareness and education, the Minister urged the Fisheries Department and academic institutions to sensitise farmers about protected and endangered species, including regulations on their trade and transportation. He stressed the importance of preventing illegal practices while promoting sustainable livelihoods.

The Minister also encouraged students and institutions to adopt local rivers and streams for study and conservation, highlighting that protecting aquatic habitats is essential for preserving biodiversity and ensuring long-term economic benefits. He cautioned against environmental degradation, particularly in urban areas where natural water bodies are under threat.

Addressing the farmers and students, the Minister emphasised that aquaculture especially ornamental fish farming offers significant entrepreneurial opportunities. He urged them to focus on long-term goals, utilise available government schemes effectively, and contribute to both economic growth and environmental conservation.



On the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister also released a monograph titled "Ornamental Fishes of Meghalaya" in the presence of its authors Dr. Rupak Nath, Dr. Debajit Sarma, Dr. Sarah M. B. Kharbuli, and Dr. Paramita Banerjee Sawant. The publication highlights the rich diversity and economic potential of ornamental fish species found in the state.



The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the Head of the Department of Fisheries Science, St. Anthony's College.

The workshop is expected to enhance awareness, build capacity, and promote sustainable aquaculture practices in Meghalaya, while encouraging youth and farmers to explore new avenues for livelihood and economic development.