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Workshop on Fisheries Sector Convergence to Boost Climate Resilience

Bhubaneswar: 21/05/2025

Workshop on “Coordination and Convergence in the Implementation of Fisheries Activities” was held today at Bhubaneswar. The workshop was organized by the State Project Management Unit (SPMU) of the Enhancing Climate Resilience of India’s Coastal Communities (**ECRICC**) project, which is being implemented across Odisha with support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), GoI and UNDP.

The event was inaugurated by Shri Suresh Kumar Vashishth, Principal Secretary, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) Dept, Govt. of Odisha. In his address, Shri Vashishth highlighted the vision of the state govt. for inclusive, climate-resilient growth in the fisheries sector. With its extensive coastal stretch and progressive policy framework, Odisha is uniquely positioned to scale sustainable aquaculture practices. This workshop is an opportunity to align flagship schemes and ECRICC interventions to maximize their collective impact. He emphasized the workshop's role in fostering institutional convergence. The ECRICC project is not only about livelihoods, but also about embedding resilience through ecosystem restoration, capacity building, and governance reform. Effective collaboration with the Directorate of Fisheries is essential to our goal of reaching over 16,000 households by 2027, he said.

Smt. Reena Mohapatra, Special Secretary, F&ARD attended the workshop. State Project Director, ECRICC, Senior representatives from ICAR-CIFA, MPEDA-RGCA, Divisional Forest Officers, and fisheries officers from 13 coastal blocks across four key districts—Puri, Kendrapara, Ganjam, and Balasore also attended it.

The day-long workshop featured technical sessions on flagship schemes in freshwater and brackish water fisheries, and presentations by ICAR-CIFA and MPEDA-RGCA on best practices in ornamental aquaculture and crab culture. Discussions also focused on the proposed mud crab hatchery at the Brackish Water Training Centre, Paradip, a key initiative to strengthen the state’s crab value chain.

The workshop brought together senior government officials, scientists, and development partners to explore strategies for strengthening synergies between Government-led fisheries initiatives and climate-resilient aquaculture interventions under the ECRICC project. Participants from field-level fisheries and forest departments, facilitating NGOs, and research institutions engaged in open dialogue to chart a roadmap for coordinated implementation, leveraging government schemes and technical expertise to enhance community resilience.

The event concluded with a commitment from all stakeholders to deepen coordination and operationalize key outcomes from the workshop.



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