

## Kisan Gosthi organized on World Pulses day and Freshwater Aquaculture – the diversified source of income

**Jhansi, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute celebrated World Pulses Day with the farmers of Babina and Moth block of Jhansi District, Uttar Pradesh. A forum discourse was also organized on the importance of freshwater aquaculture as means for diversifying farm income, thereby developing farm resilience. Inviting the gathering, Dr Asharam, Scientist (Agronomy) emphasized the need for diversification of farms by incorporating different components like pulses and fishes in the traditional wheat or rice-based cropping systems. A small pond in a farm can be the hub of diversification, starting from the fishes in the pond and fruit/timber trees on the pond boundaries, while the poultry and duckery reared near the pond. Further, the water stored in this pond can be a source of irrigation in the lean season. Acknowledging the need for diversification, the chief guest of the programme Dr. Vinay Kumar Yadav, Deputy Director, Horticulture, Government of Uttar Pradesh reiterated the necessity of soil and water conservation measures like contour bunds and the importance of groundwater recharge in the Bundelkhand region. He encouraged farmers to the adoption of water conservation strategies like drip/micro-irrigation, crop rotation and mixed cropping systems like wheat crops followed by pulses.

Mr Pateria, a progressive farmer shared his experience on freshwater aquaculture. He stated that farm pond coupled with contour bunding in his field has improved the yield and income. He also added that trees should be an integral part of these bunds which ensures the stability of the bund.

Addressing the gathering, Dr A. Arunachalam, Director reiterated the theme of this year world pulses day i.e. 'Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agri-food systems' and stated that systematic combinations of different components in a single unit of land will be the future of farming. This programme is attended by 107 farmers, staff member and students.

