



**DCT's Dhempe College of Arts and Science
Department of Biotechnology**

Report

**Event: National Workshop on Pearl Farming
and Marine Entrepreneurship**

Date: 19th to 21st February 2025

A three-day National workshop on "Pearl Farming and Marine Entrepreneurship" was organized by the Discipline of Biotechnology, SBSB, Goa University in association with SES-REC, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan from 19th to 21st February 2025, at Faculty Block E and F of Goa University. Under the DBT Star College Scheme, 11 students (3 men and 8 women) from the Biotechnology Department of D.C.T.'s Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar attended this workshop. The main objective of attending the workshop was to gain hands on experience in pearl farming techniques and explore marine entrepreneurship opportunities.

The workshop began with an inaugural function at Goa Business School, where esteemed dignitaries, including Prof. Krishnan, Dean SBSB and Prof. Harilal B. Menon, Vice-Chancellor of Goa University addressed the attendees. The sessions on the first day focused on the theoretical aspects of pearl oyster farming where Dr. M.K. Anil, Principal Scientist CMFRI, Kerala, explained the biology of pearl oysters, different types of pearls and hatchery operations. The hands-on training on nucleation and implantation of oyster pearls allowed us to understand the practical aspects of pearl formation. Additionally, Mrs. Kulanjan Manwani who is an entrepreneur from Indian Pearl Culture, Mumbai conducted an interactive session on freshwater pearl mussel culture, covering mussel identification, body structures, and life cycles. The day concluded with practical training on mussel selection, nucleus implantation, and pre-operative conditions for pearl culture.

Second day of the workshop emphasized on surgical techniques in pearl farming where participants practiced different nucleation methods, mussel maintenance, and post-surgery care. The session on feed management and water quality maintenance provided crucial insights into ensuring successful pearl cultivation. A live demonstration from a mussel farm in Banaras, conducted by Mr. Ashok Manwani and Mrs. Kulanjan Manwani showcased pearl harvesting, extraction, and the economic aspects of pearl farming, including investment, production costs, and revenue generation. This was followed by a hands-on session on pearl

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grading, sorting, treatment, and pearl pendant making, giving us an understanding of the commercial aspects of the industry.

The final day of the workshop broadened the scope beyond pearl farming by introducing fish and shrimp feed preparation led by Dr. Hrishikesh Pawar, Scientist (Fisheries) Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Goa. Another engaging session on value-added products from seafood highlighted innovative ways to utilize marine resources efficiently. Additionally, lectures by successful marine entrepreneurs, including Mrs. Sylvia Fernandes (Cage Carp Breeder) and Mr. Rajesh Singh (Shrimp Consultant and Proprietor of Aquaneeds) provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities in the marine industry. The workshop concluded with a feedback session and valedictory ceremony where participants shared their experiences and takeaways from the event.

Overall, the workshop was highly interactive, engaging, and informative offering a comprehensive learning experience in pearl farming and marine entrepreneurship. The outcome of this workshop was the learning of the hands-on techniques and real-world applications of pearl farming along with the discussions on marine entrepreneurship.

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