

Economy

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Aquaculture-production

Experts for proper use of urban water to raise fish production

Dhaka, Nov 22 (BDNEWS) – Experts at a policy workshop Tuesday called for ensuring proper use of the ponds and water bodies in urban areas to increase aquaculture production.

The experts at the two-day workshop on “Peri-Urban Aquatic Production and Improvement of the Urban Poor in South-East Asia” also called for revising the regulations guiding use of water areas in cities and towns to promote environment-friendly aquaculture production.

Secretary of Fisheries and Livestock Ministry Abdul Karim said pond owners in the city are supposed to utilize their ponds properly in line with the existing regulations. The regulations should be updated and executed to ensure increase in fisheries production, he added.

The workshop was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Forum (BFRF), Aquaculture & Fish Genetics Research Forum (AFGRP-DFID), Practical Action Bangladesh and the Production in Aquatic Pre-Urban Systems in the South East Asia (PAPUSSA) at Hotel Civic Inn.

President of BFRF Prof. M Abdul Wahab, Information Coordinator of AFGRP-DFID Anton Immink and Team leader of Practical Action Bangladesh Mohammed Ali also addressed the inaugural session chaired by William Leschen of the Stirling University, UK.

William Leschen said the purpose of the workshop is to exchange and analyse the experiences of different stakeholders on the potentials and limitations of peri-urban aquatic production and set up a platform for information exchange and mutual support on this field in South Asia.

Peri-urban aquaculture has potentials for development not only in Dhaka but also in other cities and towns of the country, he added.

Dr Mahmudul Islam, Program officer of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), presented the keynote paper at the workshop.

Mahmudul Islam said aquaculture production would help using the urban waters in an eco-friendly way, creating employment and reducing the financial and nutritional poverty of the urban poor.

Donors can provide support to enhance international information diffusion and technical assistance on good urban aquaculture production, he added.

About three million people of the country are directly engaged in aquaculture, while 5.71 percent of its export earnings come from the fisheries production.

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