

Workshop on “Antimicrobial Resistance & Alternatives to Antibiotics use in Aquaculture” held at ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar.

Bhubaneswar
12 March 2018

The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar under the aegis of All Indian Network Project on Fish Health and Association of Aquaculturists (AoA) conducted two days National Workshop on “Antimicrobial Resistance & Alternatives to Antibiotics use in Aquaculture (AMR-2018)” at its campus, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar during 12-13 March, 2018. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the major public health problems especially in developing countries where relatively easy



availability and higher consumption of medicines have led to disproportionately higher incidence of inappropriate use of antibiotics and greater levels of resistance. AMR is rising to dangerously high levels in all parts of the world. The root cause of problem seems to be over use or abuse of antibiotics and antimicrobial preparations in health management both in humans and animals including aquaculture. In countries like in India, without standard treatment guidelines, antibiotics are very often over-prescribed by health workers and veterinarians and over-used by the public. Over the counter availability of Antibiotics has been the major cause of abuse of antibiotics, responsible for development of resistant strains of microbes called AMR. World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that AMR is happening and spreading in a rapid form. It is not a country specific issue but a global concern that is

jeopardizing global health security. It has led to Multi drug resistant “Super bugs” which can not be killed with commonly available antibiotics. Presently infections caused by superbugs claim 700,000 lives annually around the world. If steps are not taken to control abuse or overuse of antibiotics in health management, it would turn out to be the number one Killer disease with 10 million deaths by 2050 says an estimate. Fisheries will not be an exception, and AMR will take its toll on food fish production informs Dr. S.S. Mishra, Organising Secretary of the workshop.



The workshop is being attended by over 120 participants consisting of Scientists, researchers, policy makers and progressive farmers. Dr. Umesh Alavandi, Project Management Specialist Health Office, U.S. Agency for International Development, spoke on the occasion and emphasized on AMR in human health. Dr. Dilip Kumar, Ex Director/VC of ICAR-CIFE was the chief guest. He highlighted the negative impact of AMR and phenotype & genotype modifications happening as a consequence of AMR. He spoke



about potential problems caused due to colonisation of the microbes that prevent the antibiotic efficiency as well as the environmental alterations as possible consequences. Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR- CIFRI, Kolkata drawn attention to indiscriminate use of antibiotics in aquaculture. He mentioned about river bed sediments showing antibiotics. Dr. J.K. Sundaray, Director, ICAR- CIFA



stressed on the need for implementation of targeted policies to combat AMR. He urged for concrete solution to come from the technical sessions. Among others who spoke on the occasion were Dr.H. K. Pradhan, ex-Head of High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Bhopal and WHO Consultant; Dr. V. V Sugunan, Ex-ADG-ICAR & FAO Consultant; Dr. B. C. Kar, Former Professor & Head, Microbiology, OUAT, Bhubaneswar; Dr. Debajit Sarma, Director, ICAR-DCFR, Haldwani.

The workshop would provide suitable recommendation and guidelines for containment and developing control strategies regarding use of different drugs/chemicals or antibiotics in the benefit of aquaculture and animal husbandry.

Dr. P Routray, Principal Scientist and Secretary, Association of Aquaculturists proposed the vote of thanks on the inaugural session.

(Source: ICAR-CIFA)