

Successful demonstration of captive breeding and seed production of striped murrel, *Channa striata* at Wyra Fish Farm, Khammam, Telangana

Striped Murrel (*Channa striata*) is one of the important indigenous food fish having high consumer preference. The fish is rich in dietary protein, amino acids, unsaturated fatty acid and possess highly nutritive and pharmacological value. The flesh quality of the fish is also known for distinctive aroma, tenderness and less spines. These properties of murrel flesh contribute to its high demand in many states of India specially Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, N-E states, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnatka, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, and Maharashtra. However, the culture of this species has not picked up mainly due to non-availability of its seed. ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar, has developed and standardized the captive breeding and seed production technology of striped murrel.

Striped murrel is the state fish of Telangana and its demand in the state is very high. Hence, Govt. of Telangana signed an MoU with ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar for “Breeding and Seed Production of Striped Murrel” and a team of state fisheries officials were provided hands on training on captive breeding and seed production technology of striped murrel. Thereafter, a team of scientists led by Dr Rajesh Kumar, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFA visited Wyra fish farm, Khammam, Telangana, and demonstrated the striped murrel breeding and seed production technology during 30th July to 4th August 2018. Induced breeding trials were successfully conducted in which the state fisheries officials also participated and a total of about 60,000 hatchlings were produced. The team not only demonstrated the breeding program but also provided technical support and guidance on live feed production and larval rearing. Further, the team emphasised on the infrastructure development at the farm, proper maintenance of brooders, feeding of fish larvae and proper nursery rearing for commercial production of striped murrel seed.

The step taken by ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar in collaboration with Commissioner of Fisheries, Govt. of Telangana is an important stride for the development of murrel fish seed production and culture practices in India. The ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar team comprises of Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Senior Scientist and Team Leader, Dr. Ramesh Rathod, Scientist and Mr. Jackson Debbarma, Scientist.



Selection of murrel brooders at Wyra fish farm, Khammam



Floating eggs of striped murrel



Observation of striped murrel larvae



Striped murrel larvae