Kick off planning meeting for Indo-Norway project held over a virtual platform on 9 October 2020

New Indo-Norge collaborative project Funded by – Research Council of Norway and Department of Science and Technology India under Bilateral cooperation with India has been initiated. The project is on CRISPR/Cas9 editing to test and control genes implicated in influencing Aeromonas disease resistance in carp and salmon.

This project is targeted to address a significant problem affecting the bio-economy of aquaculture in India and Norway, by developing methods and knowledge that can be used to effectively boost disease resistance to the most economically significant bacterial disease challenges affecting rohu carp in India and Atlantic salmon in Norway. The bilateral project will work with a objective to use CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technologies to test whether up- or down-regulation of the expression of specific gene candidates in rohu carp makes the fish more or less susceptible/resistant to *Aeromonas hydrophila* infection.

Dr Nicholas Robinson, Dr Tone Kari Knutsdatter Østbye, Dr Erik, Dr Binyam, Dr Charles Mobean Press, Dr Alexander Dettmar Crawford, Dr Elisabeth, Dr Michael A Tanulis from Nofima/Norwegian Zebrafish Platform (NZP) of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, and Dr Pramoda Kumar Sahoo, Dr Kanta Das Mahapatra, Dr J.K. Sundaray, and Mr A. Rasal, from ICAR CIFA participated in the first virtual kick off planning meeting of the project on 09.10.2020. The team discussed on the detail workplan and responsibilities for the successful completion of the project.

The team discussed on the outcome and the knowledge and tools created can be deployed by future projects in centralised selective breeding programs already existing in both countries, and the improved fish stocks distributed through existing channels to the extensive industry in India and intensive aquaculture industry in Norway to boost profitability, sustainability and productivity.