

Report on the National Fish Farmer's day celebrations at the RRC of ICAR-CIFA, Bengaluru-10th July 2018

Bangalore RRC of ICAR-CIFA observed National Fish farmers' day on 10 July 2018. The programme started with ICAR song. Dr. N. Sridhar, Principal Scientist and Scientist In Charge welcomed fish farmers and invited dignitaries. The programme was inaugurated with lighting of the lamp by dignitaries and farmers. Dr. B. Gangadhar, Senior Scientist spoke on the significance of the Fish farmers' day and also familiarized the farmers and the invitees about the research and extension activities of the ICAR-CIFA Regional Research Centre. Dr. Preetha Panikkar, Principal Scientist and Scientist In-Charge of ICAR- CIFRI Regional Centre, Bangalore spoke on the occasion and briefed the farmers about the activities of the centre. She requested the farmers to make use of the technologies like cage and pen culture in large water bodies and reservoirs.

Two progressive fish farmers were felicitated during the occasion. Mr. Fazlulla Sherief from Nelamangala has been involved in fish culture and sale since the last 32 years, when the lease amount of large tanks were as low as 50 to 100 rupees. He has seed rearing tanks for raising fingerlings from spawn. The seeds raised here will be stocked in the ponds taken for lease. Further after seed rearing, the same ponds are used for grow-out culture of carps as well. In addition to culture, he sells fish cultivated in his tanks daily using a three wheeler carrier vehicle. At present he is rearing fish in 12 tanks around Bangalore and Tumkur districts. Mr. Sherief has been taking both fish seed and technical guidance from the Centre for the past half a decade. The second farmer ,Mr. Manjunath H. from Arebommanahalli is involved in fish culture since the last 8-10 years. He is doing composite culture of Indian major carps with grass carp and silver carp. He is also growing Jayanthi rohu in one of his tanks and follows the technical guidance given by the centre diligently. At present, Mr. Manjunath is raising fish in 4 tanks taken for lease.

The chief guest of the day, Dr. M. J. Chandre Gowda, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone VIII, Bangalore, while addressing the farmers informed them about the benefits of integrating

fish farming along with other agricultural activities. The farm ponds and the storage cum irrigation tanks available with the farmers can be beneficially exploited for carp rearing, he added. He also remembered the taste of the small and indigenous fish species which were available in the streams during the rainy season during his school days. Answering to one of the questions raised by a farmer regarding the compensation schemes available from state and central government for those injured or lost their lives when engaged in fishing activities, he briefed the schemes available from the central government. This was followed by an extensive question and answer session with the farmers wherein all the scientists and the farmers participated. Existing hindrances for use of manures and fertilisers for better and faster growth of stocked fish in public tanks, the problem of menace of the catfish *Clarias gariepinus* in leased tanks, solutions for killing of the eggs of African catfish after emptying the tanks, tank/ pond preparation steps to be followed before stocking the tanks/ponds etc. were some of the queries raised by the farmers. The farmers also gained an insight into the activities and achievements of ICAR-CIFA through an exhibition held on the occasion. Forty seven fish farmers from villages around Bangalore and the staff of CIFA and CIFRI attended the celebrations. Dr. B. S. Ananad Kumar, Scientist of the Centre proposed vote of thanks..



