

**Dr Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary (Fisheries), Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of India  
visited ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar on 16 August 2023**

Dr Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary (Fisheries), Govt. of India visited ICAR-CIFA on 16 August 2023 and he had an interaction meeting with stakeholders of the aquaculture sector. Dr P K Sahoo, Director apprised the technology development and technology commercialisation of ICAR-CIFA. He also presented the farmer's network through technology demonstrations. Dr M. K. Sinha, Senior Executive, NFDB highlighted the activities carried out at NFDB-NFFBB, Kausalyaganga. Mr Sadique Alam, IAS, Director, Fisheries, Govt of Odisha presented the status of Fisheries and Aquaculture sector in Odisha. Dr Likhi, IAS, Secretary had interaction with Fish Feed manufacturers, Seafood export house, Improved variety multiplier unit, Biofloc beneficiary, Self Help group and Farmers club. Each of them opined about the price rise of inputs, especially feed ingredients. The stakeholders talked about benefits received from ICAR CIFA on technology handholding and linkage. In addition to that Padmshree Batakrishna Sahoo presented the success story of Aquaculture in Khurdha district. On his remarks, the secretary suggested the ICAR institutes and State Govts to work together to take the new technologies to the end users. End-to-end value chain (from seed to market) must be understood and supported by the R & D institutions and Govt. Departments for better adoption by the fish farmers. He recommended having the followings:

- To organize National level stakeholders' consultation on ornamental fish and Pearl farming at the earliest.
- Skilling stakeholders and particularly women's on advanced knowledge on Improved varieties and Biofloc
- Upscaling the Aquaponics technology.
- IOT and AI based precision aquaculture projects need to be focused and expanded.

He visited the field facilities of improved varieties (Rohu and Catla), Biofloc demonstration unit, Ornamental fish unit, Catfish breeding unit and Murrel seed production units of the Institute. He had an interaction with trainees presently trained at Catfish breeding unit.

The visit was coordinated by Dr J K Sundaray, Head, Fish Genetics and Biotechnology Division ICAR, CIFA.



