

ICAR-DCFR Puts Meghalaya on the Map of Coldwater Aquaculture

ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research (DCFR), Bhimtal, Uttarakhand organised a one-day workshop on 'Boosting coldwater aquaculture and fisheries in Meghalaya' on 18th August 2023, at Umiam, in collaboration with ICAR Research Complex for North East Hill Region and Department of Fisheries, Meghalaya. The Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Meghalaya, Shri Alexander L. Hek was the chief guest of this workshop. Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Director, ICAR-DCFR; Shri Sibhi Chakravarthy Sadhu, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Meghalaya; Dr. V.K. Mishra, Director, ICAR-RC NEH; Dr. A.K. Mohanty, Director, ICAR-ATARI Zone VII; Dr. S.V. Ngachan, Former Director, ICAR-RC NEH; and Smti A.L. Mawlong, Director, Department of Fisheries, Meghalaya, were the other distinguished participants of the workshop. The workshop was attended by nearly 100 farmers, entrepreneurs and interested stakeholders from various parts of Meghalaya.

Dr. Pandey set the context for the workshop by elaborating the potential of coldwater aquaculture and fisheries to provide new livelihood avenues and nutritional security for the people of Meghalaya. He also highlighted the promising coldwater aquaculture technologies developed by ICAR-DCFR which can be implemented in Meghalaya. During his chief guest address, Shri A.L. Hek emphasized on the need to achieve self-sufficiency in fish production in Meghalaya by promoting coldwater aquaculture and adopting new technologies in suitable regions. He also mentioned that ICAR-DCFR should open a research centre in Meghalaya and prepare a complete road map for coldwater aquaculture development in Meghalaya.

In the following sessions, different resource persons and experts deliberated on the best aquaculture practices in rainbow trout farming, resource efficient intensive trout production systems (RAS), ornamental fish-based livelihood avenues, sustainable integrated fish farming opportunities and the necessity to conserve endemic fish biodiversity.

In conjunction with this workshop, the scientists' team from ICAR-DCFR led by Dr. Pandey, namely, Dr. R.S. Patiyal, Dr. Biju Sam Kamalam and Dr. Rajesh M. explored and identified potential rainbow trout farming sites in Mawphlang, East Khasi Hills. Also, the team inspected the first private trout farm in Meghalaya which is being operated under the technical guidance of ICAR-DCFR, and visited the Government rainbow trout farm in Shillong, during 17 and 19 August 2023. As the next step to develop coldwater aquaculture in Meghalaya,

ICAR-DCFR is planning to establish few rainbow trout raceways in East Khasi Hills to generate employment and empower local communities, under the tribal sub-plan.



Workshop on boosting coldwater aquaculture and fisheries in Meghalaya



Stakeholders meeting at Mawphlang, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya



Site selection for establishment of trout raceways in Mawphlang, Meghalaya, under TSP



ICAR-DCFR technically guides the first private trout farm in Mawphlang, Meghalaya



ICAR-DCFR provides advisory to Government rainbow trout farm at Shillong, Meghalaya



Water quality kit distribution to tribal farmers' cooperative society at Mawphlang, Meghalaya