

**National Seminar on “Climate Smart Aquaculture and Fisheries (CSAF)” organised at College of Fisheries, Central Agricultural University (Imphal), Tripura**

National Seminar on “Climate-Smart Aquaculture and Fisheries (CSAF) alongside the 31<sup>st</sup> All India Congress of Zoology (31<sup>st</sup> AICZ) was organised at College of Fisheries, CAU (I), Lembucherra, Tripura during 15-16 January, 2019. The said congress/seminar was jointly organised by the North East Society for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NESFA), Agartala, Tripura and Zoological Society of India (ZSI), Gaya, Bihar in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee Year celebration of the Central Agricultural University (Imphal). The event was attended by more than 150 delegates across the country with an idea to inculcate ideas and opinions through the eight session deliberations from the experts to bring about long term sustainability to the industry in the midst of climate change. The inaugural programme was graced by Shri N.C. Debbarma, Minister of Revenue and Fisheries, Government of Tripura amidst the presence of Dr. J. K. Jena, DDG (Fisheries Sciences), Prof. M. Premjit Singh, Vice Chancellor, CAU (I), Prof. S. Felix, Vice Chancellor, TNFU, Dr. Dilip Kumar, Former Director, ICAR-CIFE, Prof. V.L. Dharurkar, Dr. B.N. Pandey, President, ZSI, Dr. N.P. Singh, Director, ICAR-NIASM, Dr. A.K. Saxena, Former President, Indian Science Congress, Dr. P.K. Pandey, Dean, CoF, CAU (I) and other dignitaries. Various ZSI awards/fellowships were presented to the awardees who contributed to the sector.

Speaking on the occasion as the Chief Guest, Shri Debbarma emphasised the need for dissemination modern technology into the existing primitive level of fish farming in many pockets of northeast region. Reflecting the rich aqua-resources of the region, he urged the scientific fraternity to research upon out-of-box technologies and to prepare a roadmap for marching the sector ahead for harnessing the farmer’s income. He mentioned the shortfalls in fish consumption behaviour and production of fish in the state and was very much optimistic about the recommendations that will be brought out from the deliberations.

Prof. M. Premjit Singh highlighted the role of the college in imparting needful trainings to the school dropouts/youths of the region to resurrect them for livelihood options. He made a special note with regard to quality and safety concerns of the fish and fishery products and requested the scientist of the different organization to come into convergence; emphasizing some of the strategic points on hill area aquaculture, cheap and sustainable fish feed development, prioritization of high value fish species for aquaculture.

Dr. J.K. Jena pointed the very urgent need for tackling climate change related issues in fisheries and aquaculture sector. He specifically mentioned the need for more variety in consumer's plate, apart from maintaining quality of the products.

Dr. Dilip Kumar pointed his concerns over ensuring farm income apart from achieving good production and productivity and suggested for targeting some of the replicable technology that can enhance farmer's income.

Further, an exhibit of various technological and research achievement by various organisations was showcased. The minister also inaugurated the FISH FESTIVAL-2019, wherein several stalls were opened by key entrepreneurs of the state to sell fish related products. The three days fish festival held during 15-17 January was funded by the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad and targets to promote fisheries through exhibition of products and creating awareness about need for value addition of fish products.