

International Symposium and Strategy Planning Workshop

Two days International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health and Epidemiology for Sustainable Asian Aquaculture was organized by Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation Society, Lucknow, India in collaboration with ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow and National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases during April 20- 21, 2017. About 200 participants from India and abroad attended the symposium. There were 16 keynote lectures by the experts from India and abroad. Prof. Larry Hammell, Canada mentioned that application of simple epidemiological principles in the surveillance program can help in drawing accurate conclusions about the distribution pattern of fish diseases. Prof. K.L. Morgan, UK highlighted the involvement of farmers in the reporting of the diseases so that losses can be minimized. Further, Prof. I. Karunasagar, FAO, Rome advised for judicious use of drugs and antimicrobials in aquaculture for reducing antimicrobial resistance. Keynote lectures were delivered on emerging pathogens like carp edema virus, oomycete and fish and shellfish diseases by Prof. Mansour-El-Matbouli, Dr. Chris Hauton, Prof. Valerie J. Smith, Prof. Pieter van West, Dr. K.V. Rajendran Dr. K.K. Vijayan Dr. P.K. Sahoo and Dr. N.K. Sanil. In addition, scenario on emerging Aquatic Animal Diseases in the Asia-Pacific Region was presented by Dr. Eduardo. M. Leño, Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Thailand. Policy Framework for Preventing Spread of Diseases in India was also discussed by Dr. A. G. Ponniah, former Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow. The experts were of the opinion that more research should be carried out on two important diseases of fish and shrimp i.e. epizootic ulcerative syndrome and white spot disease for their management. Dr. C.V. Mohan from World Fish, Malaysia said that there is need to look into disease concern of aquaculture of small indigenous fish species, which are important for nutritional security of rural house old. Dr. Kuldeep K. Lal, Convener of the symposium and Director, ICAR-NBFGR highlighted the importance of good quality seed to avoid genetic erosion and disease susceptibility.

The symposium was followed by a strategy planning workshop, in which invited experts and representatives from the aquaculture industry participated and inputs from the Symposium was deliberated for preparing future road map of the aquatic animal disease surveillance programme in the country. It was emphasised that fish disease surveillance should be a continuous and institutionalized process with the active involvement of state fisheries departments and industry along with scientific institutes. Through this the disease outbreaks are reported and investigated and farmers are provided with scientific information at appropriate time, thereby the losses due to fish diseases are reduced. The representative from the aquaculture industry assured full support for the programme. It was urged that such an important programme should be continued in the future.



(Source: ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow)