

## International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health and Epidemiology for Sustainable Asian Aquaculture being organised at ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow

20<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, Lucknow

Keeping in view the importance of disease occurrence, losses due to it and the corresponding management practice, a 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 which was inaugurated at 10 AM, April 20, 2017 by Hon'ble Minister of Technology and Medical Education, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ashutosh Tandon. The meeting was presided over by Dr. J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fy), ICAR, New Delhi with Prof. Kenton Lloyd Morgan, Emeritus Professor, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom as the guest of Honour. Over 200 distinguished Aquatic Animal Health Scientists, technocrats, policy makers, students and entrepreneurs from all over the country and overseas participated in this symposium.

Dr. Kuldeep K Lal, Convener of the this International Symposium and Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow delivered the welcome address and briefly mentioned about the importance of this symposium. He also informed the delegates about the active role of ICAR-NBFGR in training the farmers on fish culture, conservation, Health Management. Prof. Morgan highlighted the important role of epidemiology in the sustainability of the aquaculture and encouraged the young researchers to have passion for epidemiology and take it as part for their career development. In his presidential address, Dr. Jena stressed on the challenges faced by the aquaculture industry in the Asian region particularly due to huge losses by disease outbreaks. He mentioned about the 12 fold increase in fish production over past three decades in meeting the growing demand of quality animal protein and providing livelihood to large number of people in the years to come to be a herculean task due to climate change and water scarcity. He explained about ongoing national surveillance programme on Aquatic Animal Diseases, selective breeding programmes for increasing disease resistance in fishes and some of new initiatives regarding Antimicrobial resistance programme. With the presence of aquatic animal health expertise in the country and supported by the international collaboration, he was confident in meeting the challenge due to aquatic animal diseases .



The Chief Guest Hon'ble Shri Ashutosh Tandon, Minister of Technology and Medical Education, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh addressed the gathering. Emphasising on the recent pollution status of different water bodies, the Chief Guest of the inaugural session explained about '**Namami Gange**', the flagship programmes of Government of India to tackle pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of main National River Ganga. He also mentioned about the commitment of the Government of Uttar Pradesh to reduce water/river pollution in the state and expressed hope that by preventing water pollution, the fishers/farmers would be benefited. He expressed his happiness regarding the status of ICAR-NBFGR, its research programmes the institute and expected the International symposium to come out with meaningful deliberations in helping the fish farmers to reduce diseases loss and increase profit. Shri Tandon also visited the Gang Aquarium in the premises of ICAR-NBFGR and appreciated that it is open for public and school children.

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