

ICAR-NBFGR & WWF-India organized Joint Consultation on Risk-Benefit Assessment for Alien fishes

ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Lucknow and World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) organised a Consultation on **Invasive Alien Fish Species: Need for a Risk-Benefit Assessment and Management Framework for Healthy Freshwater Ecosystems** at WWF-India, Lodhi Road, New Delhi on 19.12.2018. The program aimed to develop a risk benefit analysis framework, which can be used for assessing the new proposed introductions, or perspective introductions in the country as well as to discuss the mitigation strategies for eradicating invasive species established in natural waters. The alien species were imported for aquaculture, sport, and ornamental fish trade and as biocontrol agents. Some of the imported species proved useful in augmentation of aquaculture production, but some other species imported through un-authorized routes are posing threats to the native species and ecosystems. Therefore the Consultation was organized to discuss the various issues on aliens and seek opinion of the experts and stakeholders to develop a risk-benefit assessment model. Besides experts from International organizations like NACA & SAARC, the program was attended by a galaxy of very senior experts of fishery sector and representatives from Wild Life Institute, Dehradun; National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai; Marine Products Export Council, Kochi; Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fisheries (DAHD&F), New Delhi, Zoological Survey of India, Chief Conservator of Forest, Chandigarh; Universities and ICAR institutes.



Addressing as Chief Guest, Dr. M.V. Gupta, World Food Prize Laureate appreciated the efforts of the organizers for flagging this important global issue of aquaculture sector and initiative to develop a model. Dr. J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries) also graced the function and supported the theme to develop appropriate mechanism for alien fishes. Dr. Dilip Kumar, Dr. George John, Dr. A.G. Ponniah, Dr. Kenton Morgan, Dr. Brij Gopal, Dr. Biju Kumar, Dr. Prakash Nautial also expressed their views on the issue. Dr. Eduardo Leono, from NACA, Bangkok and Dr. S.S. Giri, SAARC, Dhaka presented the issues of alien fishes in their respective regions.

Mr. Suresh Babu, Director, WWF-India welcomed the delegates and briefed about activities of WWF-India in general and e-flow assessment in particular.

Dr. Kuldeep K. Lal Director, ICAR-NBFGR initiated the discussion with context setting remarks and various components of the consultation. Dr. K.D. Joshi and Dr. P. Pradhan from ICAR-NBFGR presented the overview of aliens in India and Risk-Benefit Assessment modelling, respectively in details. The experts prepared group tasks through discussion on the formats for developing the risk benefit analysis framework. Mr. Nitin Kaushal, Associate Director, WWF-India was associated in successful organization of the consultation.