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Dr. J. K. Jena, with 25 years of research experience in different fields of freshwater aquaculture and conservation genetics, at present is holding the position of Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science) at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, India. Prior to this, he served as the Director of the ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow, India for over five years.

Working in different aspects of freshwater aquaculture at the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar, India during his initial career in different capacities, including as National Fellow and Head of the Division, Dr. Jena has contributed to the development of several technologies and research findings, including breeding, seed production and farming of diversified carp species; multiple cropping of carps; intensive carp culture; treatment of domestic sewage through aquaculture; cryopreservation of fish milt; and applied nutrition. He has operated over 20 research projects, including 10 externally-funded projects as Principal Investigator. As Coordinator, ICAR-Consortium Research Platform on Genomics, presently he is coordinating research in genomics, across several commodities, including crops, animals, fish, insects and microbes. In addition, as National Coordinator, he is operating the National Aquatic Animal Disease Surveillance Programme in India with involvement of 25 partner organizations.

Dr. Jena has published over 150 research papers in national and international journals, besides publication of 5 books, 20 book chapters, 7 review papers, 60 popular articles and over 150 Research Abstracts. He has been conferred with several awards and recognition, including Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Award of ICAR; ICAR Award for the Team Research; Special One-time Award by ICAR; Prof. H.P.C. Shetty Award for Excellence in Fisheries Research by AFSIB; Pillay Aquaculture Award of the Pillay Aquaculture Foundation and several others. He has also been conferred with several Fellowships by different Scientific Societies including Fellowship of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, India. Presently he holds the position of the President of the Asian Fisheries Society and also the Chairman of the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch. He has also served as the Member or Expert member of different national level committees.