

ICAR-NBFGR conducted conference on One Health & Ecosystem Services

ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and the Academy of Environmental Biology (AEB) organized a two-day Conference “One Health & Ecosystem Services (OHES-2019)” from 29-30 November, 2019 at NBFGR, Lucknow in collaboration with Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation Society (ABCS). One Health highlights a strategic action plan of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) along with Ecosystem Services. One Health is the matter of serious concern among the researchers, policy makers and governmental agencies in the view of increasing pollution, adulteration and pressure on natural resources since last few decades. Due to multiple aberrations in the natural system, a substantial increase in flow of infectious agents has been reported all around. The FAO initiative to One Health vision is to unify the stakeholders to safeguard human and animal health, to reduce disease threats and to ensure a safe food supply through effective and responsible management of natural resources.

The inaugural session of the conference was graced by galaxies of senior experts including Prof. MLB Bhatt, Vice Chancellor, King George Medical University, Lucknow; Dr. Habibar Rehman, Regional Representative, South-East Asia, International Livestock Research Institute, New Delhi; Dr. J K Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries and Animal Sciences), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr. Jaswant Singh, President AEB, Lucknow, Dr. Krishna Gopal, Secretary, AEB and very senior experts of fishery, environment and academics.



Views of Inaugural Session and releasing of Abstract



Overview of the inaugural session

Dr. Kuldeep K Lal, Director, ICAR-NBFGR, welcomed the dignitaries and emphasized the theme of the conference, need of discussion and actions on One Health, on his opening remarks.

In his inaugural address as Chief guest, Prof. Bhatt opined that human beings are civilized enough to look after our own health but not of other terrestrial and aquatic animals and natural resources. He informed the gathering that one gram of mercury salt is enough to pollute 20 acre of land/ pond and it's aquatic life that will turn unsuitable to human consumption. He opined that antibiotics and vaccines are the most important discoveries for health sector, while green revolution for food security. India is having all kind of climate ranging from temperate to subtropical to tropical where sunlight is available throughout the year, but humans are deprived of direct sun rays. He also informed that Vitamin D and minerals deficiency is very common in Indian population. He stressed to curtail quantity of our food consumption and keep ourselves close to the nature to keep us healthy and fit for longer life. Dr. Rehman Regional Representative, ILRI stressed on the importance of the water and total health of the aquatic as well as terrestrial animals, wild and domesticated animals, zoonotic disease, medicine for one health approach, one health for the ecosystem etc. He opined that around 2.3 billion zoonotic diseases occur world-wide in humans every year. Around seven lakh deaths occurred worldwide due to antimicrobial resistance that may go up to 10 million per annum by the year 2050. Dr. J.K. Jena DDG, stressed upon the health of the soil, nutritional deficiency in our food, disease transfer from bovine to human (especially brucellosis) due to man and animal frequent contact, assessment of risk of disease management. He informed that fish has very less zoonotic potential as compared to terrestrial animals. At the end of inaugural session Dr. K.D. Joshi, Principal Scientist and Organizing Secretary OHES 2019 thanked the distinguished delegates. Over 250 delegates from various parts of the country, including planners, senior experts, university professors, scientists, researchers, students, representatives from government and non-governmental organization participated in the conference. The technical sessions of the conference were divided into 9 different thematic areas. The theme of the Conference-One Health was discussed in number of invited lectures, lead lectures, poster presentations, expert discussions and addresses of the guests.



Valedictory function of OHES 2019

The conference was concluded on 30.11.2019 with the valedictory function chaired by Dr. B Meenakumari, Former Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai. She emphasized about the importance of all biotic components for maintaining ecological balance, integrity and sustenance of human life. Prof. Brij Gopal, former senior faculty of Jawahar Lal University, New Delhi emphasized on the ecosystem services and various self-regulatory systems on earth. The conference concluded with certain recommendations to approach one health for the living systems to sustain the ecosystems and its services. An exhibition was also displayed on the occasion to show case current research developments in different ICAR fishery institutes.