

Hon'ble Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR dedicated National Fish Museum & Repository to the nation at ICAR-NBFGR

The National Fish Museum and Repository at ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow was dedicated to the nation on 14th of April, 2023 by the Hon'ble Secretary, DARE, and Director General, ICAR, Dr. Himanshu Pathak in presence of Dr. J. K. Jena, DDG (Fisheries Science), ICAR, Dr. U. K. Sarkar, Director ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow and other delegates. On this occasion, the Directors of ICAR institutes at Lucknow were also present. ICAR-NBFGR is designated as the nodal repository agency for fish germplasm resources under section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Government of India, and the institute has strengthened its status by establishing a National Fish Museum and Repository.

The newly developed museum displays finfish and shellfish voucher specimens of freshwater, marine, and brackish water environments for research and the general public. The museum holds a radiographic facility to comprehensively understand fish morphological features. The museum presently holds specimens of 1200 finfish species and 250 molluscan species found in India and aims to hold voucher specimens of all finfish and shellfish resources of India in the future. DNA and tissue repository at the museum contains 19000 tissue accessions belonging to commercial/prioritized fish species. The repository possesses a cryobank of fish sperm and developed cryopreservation technology for 31 fish species. The microbial repository established here aims to store and preserve aquatic animal pathogens important for fish and public health research and development. National Repository of Fish Cell Lines (NRFC) which is the world's largest collection of fish cell lines with 81 cell line accessions is also located in the repository. In connection with this national facility, five days training programme on Integrated fish taxonomy and systematics of Finfish and Shellfish was also inaugurated with 27 trainees from various parts of the country.

Hon'ble Secretary, DARE, and Director General, ICAR visited various facilities including live fish germplasm resources center, farm and hatchery, and Ganga aquarium, and was appraised of Bureau's activities and achievements in reaching out to various kinds of stakeholders through its outreach activities. Dr. Pathak also released fingerlings



of prioritized fish species in ponds of live fish germplasm resource center. The application of drone technology in aquaculture farm was also demonstrated. Hon'ble DG appreciated the achievements of ICAR-NBFGR in various fields and praised the green and clean campus of Bureau. Dr. Pathak while interacting with the scientists and staff of



ICAR-NBFGR, called for thinking innovative ideas so that emerging issues and challenges faced by our farmers and fisherfolks are addressed through the use of science and technology. On this occasion, Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG (Fy. Sc.), ICAR in his address highlighted the genesis and importance of the establishment of National Fish Museum and Repository at ICAR-NBFGR and expressed that this state-of-the-art facility will be immensely helpful to taxonomists and other researchers. The dignitaries also released the institute's publication during the occasion. Before that, Dr. U.K. Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR welcomed the dignitaries and appraised the significant achievements in key thematic areas of aquatic genetic resources of the country.

