

## **ICAR-NBFGR celebrated National Fish Farmers Day and Fish Ranching**

ICAR-NBFGR celebrated National Fish Farmers Day on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 to commemorate the anniversary of successful induced breeding of Indian major carps by renowned fishery scientist Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr. Alikunhi in 1957 by injecting carp pituitary hormone extract. The celebration started with a ranching programme was undertaken in River Gomti near Indira dam at village Chhoti Devaria, district Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh wherein over a thousand quality fingerlings of locally important fish species like *Labeo rohita*, *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *L. gonius*, *Ompok bimaculatus*, *L. calbasu* and *L. bata* were ranched for improving the fish biodiversity and riverine health. The freshwater fish species ranched, are common in this region but their population has been found declining over the years due to indiscriminate fishing and growing water pollution. Dr. A. K. Shasany, Director, CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow, Dr. (Brig.) P. Jaiswal, Head, Army Medical Corps, Lucknow, Dr. U. K. Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR, Heads of the Divisions, scientists and local fishermen were present on the occasion.

A series of awareness lectures on ‘Millet-based fish farming’, ‘ReportFishDisease app’ and ‘Applications of drones in fisheries and aquaculture’ were also delivered by NBFGR scientists on this occasion for the benefit of fish farmers. Dr. R. Viswanathan, Director, ICAR-IISR, Lucknow, the Chief Guest of the occasion, emphasized upon integrated fish farming for increasing farmers’ income. Guest of Honour Dr. S. Raizada, Former ADG (Inland Fisheries), ICAR in his address elaborated in detail about various technological developments in the fisheries & aquaculture sector on India and opportunities available for fish farmers in present times. Dr. U.K. Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR emphasized upon the high potential of fish farming and fish entrepreneurship in increasing the farmers’ income through increasing fish production and value addition. He encouraged the farmers, especially youths, to adopt fish farming as their profession and engage others also to help reduce unemployment in rural areas. Five progressive fish farmers were awarded for their outstanding achievements in fish farming who also shared their experiences. Over 200 people including scientists, staff of the institute, over 80 fish farmers/fishermen and fish entrepreneurs from Lucknow and adjoining districts and states participated in the programme.

