

Hon'ble Minister Shri Surya Pratap Shahi Inaugurated ICAR-NBFGR's Ornamental Fish Bank Integrated with Innovative Farmer Field School, in collaboration with KVK Katia-II, Sitapur, for Strengthening Micro-Entrepreneurship and Market Linkages

Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, 17.01.2026

ICAR-NBFGR established an Ornamental Fish Bank, integrated with an Innovative Farmer Field School, in collaboration with KVK Katia-II, Sitapur. The facility was formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri Surya Pratap Shahi, Minister of Agriculture, Agriculture Education and Agriculture Research, Uttar Pradesh. Hon'ble Minister visited the infrastructure, released ornamental aquatic species into the newly constructed cemented tanks, and appreciated the collaborative efforts of ICAR-NBFGR and KVK Katia-II. A demonstration of women-fabricated aquaria using recycled and locally available materials was showcased, highlighting innovation, sustainability, and cost-effective entrepreneurship. To catalyze immediate enterprise development, the Hon'ble Minister distributed startup support kits to local beneficiaries, including solar lighting units with rechargeable USB ports, insulated ice boxes, and digital weighing machines. Hon'ble Minister emphasized that the initiative represents a model of science-led inclusive development, translating technical knowledge into viable micro-enterprises for marginalized communities. Dr. Poonam Jayant Singh, Nodal Officer (SCSP), ICAR-NBFGR, highlighted that the initiative is attached to ICAR-NBFGR's Mission Navshakti programme under the SCSP component, which has received global recognition from the FAO for its contributions to empowerment and skill development through aquatic resources. The programme has empowered more than 570 women, equipping them with technical competencies in ornamental aquatic species rearing, aquarium maintenance, and fabrication using innovative, low-cost, and resource-efficient approaches based on a systemic design framework and hub-and-spoke cluster model. The operational success of the Katia model has already facilitated its replication in Unnao, Barabanki, and Kanpur districts, underscoring its scalability and policy relevance for Uttar Pradesh. Dr. Kajal Chakraborty, Director, ICAR-NBFGR, informed that the facility will support strengthening of market linkages through micro-entrepreneurship and community-based value chains. The event was coordinated by Dr. Dayashankar Srivastava, Head, KVK Katia-II, Dr. Poonam Jayant Singh, Nodal Officer (SCSP), ICAR-NBFGR; Dr. Ajey Kumar Pathak; Shri Indramani Raja, Aquaworld; and the Ozone FPO team. The KVK Katia-II team Dr. Anand Singh, Shri Shailendra Kumar Singh, and Dr. Reena, supported in organizing the programme. The occasion was also graced by Shri Nirmal Verma, MLA Biswa; Shri Pawan Singh, MLC, Sitapur; and the Gram Pradhan, reflecting strong institutional and local governance support for the initiative.

