

Brainstorming Session on Biodiversity Conservation Priorities for Resilient Aquatic Ecosystems and Livelihoods jointly organized by the Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, NAAS Lucknow Regional Chapter and ICAR-NBFGR

Lucknow, 25 August 2026

A brainstorming session on “*Biodiversity Conservation Priorities for Resilient Aquatic Ecosystems and Livelihoods*” was jointly organized by the Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, NAAS Lucknow Regional Chapter and ICAR-NBFGR, on 25 August 2026, held at ICAR-NBFGR. Dr. Kajal Chakraborty, Convener, NAAS Lucknow Regional Chapter and Director, ICAR-NBFGR, highlighted the roadmap for fisheries and aquaculture development for Viksit Uttar Pradesh. The Chief Guest, Shri Neeraj Kumar, IFS, Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Government of Uttar Pradesh, emphasized on identification of priority actions for conservation and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and resilient riverine and wetland ecosystems in Uttar Pradesh; develop science-based strategies for sustainable management of aquatic bioresources; promote collaboration among stakeholders for integrating biodiversity conservation with sustainable fisheries and livelihoods; and formulate policy recommendations and a roadmap for biodiversity governance, research and capacity building.

The brainstorming programme was structured into two technical sessions (1. Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity for Sustainable Fisheries and Resilient Ecosystem and 2. Strengthening Biodiversity-Based Livelihoods: Technological and policy support), covering 5 major themes, addressing aquatic biodiversity conservation, ecosystem resilience, sustainable fisheries, livelihood diversification, technological support, policy implementation, gender perspectives and institutional partnerships. The theme 1 addressed ‘*Aquatic ecosystems and ichthyodiversity of Uttar Pradesh: Status and prospects*’, Chaired by Shri Neeraj Kumar, IFS, Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Government of Uttar Pradesh; and Co-chaired by Dr. Kajal Chakraborty, Convener, NAAS Lucknow Regional Chapter and Director, ICAR-NBFGR; with panellists, Shri Anil Kumar, Joint Director, Department of Fisheries, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Dr. I. J. Singh, Former Dean, CoF, GBPUAT; Dr. K. D. Joshi, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-NBFGR; and Dr. Rajeev Kumar Singh, Principal Scientist and Head, GEEC, ICAR-NBFGR. The theme 2 addressed ‘*Challenges and threats of habitat degradation, invasive alien species, pollution and climate change*’, Chaired by Dr. R. C. Srivastava, Former VC, RPCAU; Co-chair by Dr. A.K. Singh, Former Director, ICAR-CICFR; with panellists, Dr. A. G. Ponniah, Former Director, ICAR-NBFGR & CIBA; Dr. D. K. Sharma, Former Director, CSSRI; Dr. P. K. Pandey, Dean CoF, RLBCAU; Shri Ajaz Ahmad Naqvi, Deputy Director (Planning), Department of Fisheries, Government of Uttar Pradesh; and Dr. P. K. Pradhan, Principal Scientist & Head, EAAH, ICAR-NBFGR. The theme 3 addressed ‘*Conservation measures and strategies for restoration and practical management towards resilient ecosystems in Uttar Pradesh*’, Chaired by Dr. H. B. Singh, Advisor, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board; and Co-chaired by Dr. S. Raizada, Former ADG Inland Fisheries, ICAR; with panellists, Dr. B. R. Chavan, Head, ICAR-CIFRI, Prayagraj; Er. Rajnish Kumar, Aquapreneur, PVR Aqua; and Dr. Ravindra Kumar, Principal Scientist & Head, GCR, ICAR-NBFGR. The theme 4 addressed ‘*Livelihood diversification through indigenous fish culture and success stories*’, Chaired by Dr. S.D. Singh, Former ADG Inland Fisheries, ICAR; and Co-chaired by Dr. Sharad Kumar Singh, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NBFGR; with panellists, Er. Rajnish Kumar, Aquapreneur, PVR; Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Aquapreneur; Dr. D.R. Malaviya, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-ISRI; Dr. B.V.S. Sisodia, Former Professor, ANDUAT; and Dr. T.T. Ajith Kumar, Principal Scientist & Head, PAGR, ICAR-NBFGR. The theme 5 addressed ‘*Towards Viksit Uttar Pradesh: Building partnerships and gender perspective among government agencies, academia and fishing communities & farmers’ interaction*’, Chaired by Dr. S. Raizada, Former ADG Inland Fisheries, ICAR; and Co-chaired by Dr. Rejni Pandey, Deputy General Manager, NABARD-BIRD; with panellists, Dr. V. K. Tiwari, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFE; Dr. Abha Mishra, Professor, BBAU, Lucknow; Dr. S.G.S. Zaidi, Former Senior Scientist, ICAR-CICFR; and Shri Diwakar Singh, CEO, Abhinav FFPO, Barabanki.

The discussions involved experts, Biodiversity Management Committee members and progressive fish farmers from Uttar Pradesh, providing a field-level perspective on fisheries-based livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. A total of 140 participants attended the brainstorming session. The brainstorming session planned to prepare a white paper and recommendations for the Government of Uttar Pradesh on sustainable utilization of fish biodiversity and conservation of native fish germplasm. The recommendations are also intended to support community-based conservation strategies, sustainable fisheries management plan, local capacity building and informed policymaking for long-term conservation and sustainable management of aquatic biodiversity. The programme was convened by Shri Neeraj Kumar, IFS, Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, and Dr. Kajal Chakraborty, Director, ICAR-NBFGR and Convener, NAAS Lucknow Regional Chapter. Programme coordination was undertaken by Dr. L. K. Tyagi, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NBFGR, and Dr. Somesh Gupta, Technical Officer, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board.

