

Live Fish Gene Bank and Community Aquaculture Centre Established at Chakpikarong, Manipur through ICAR-NBFGR—Dhanamanjuri University Collaboration, with Awareness and Input Distribution to Promote Fish Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods

Chandel, Manipur, September 19, 2026

A Live Fish Gene Bank and Community Aquaculture Centre was inaugurated at Chakpikarong, Chandel district, Manipur on September 19, 2026, established by joint efforts of ICAR-NBFGR and Dhanamanjuri University, Manipur. The Centre is envisaged as a community-oriented facility for the preservation, conservation, *ex situ* maintenance and sustainable management of indigenous and endemic fish genetic resources, while simultaneously supporting aquaculture-based livelihood opportunities for local communities along the Chakpi River. The initiative is expected to contribute to strengthening community participation in aquatic biodiversity conservation and sustainable fisheries development in the region. The Centre was jointly inaugurated by Prof. W. Chandrabu Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Dhanamanjuri University; Dr. Kajal Chakraborty, Director, ICAR-NBFGR; and Shri Robert Singh Kshetrimayum, Commissioner & Secretary (Fisheries), Government of Manipur. The inauguration was followed by an awareness programme on fish conservation, fisheries development and community aquaculture. On this occasion, Dhanamanjuri University and ICAR-NBFGR, exchanged MoU, providing a framework for strengthening collaborative activities in fish genetic resource conservation, research, community aquaculture, capacity building and sustainable fisheries development. A book "Fishes of the Chakpi River: Diversity, Systematics and Conservation", with documented information of 107 fish species, was released during the programme. As part of the community outreach component, fish feed, fishing nets, buckets and other aquaculture inputs were distributed to more than 100 participating fish farmers. The distribution was aimed at supporting local farmers and encouraging sustainable aquaculture practices under the ICAR-NBFGR's NEH & STC. During the interactive session, Shri T. Phulen, Director of Fisheries, Government of Manipur, provided practical information on the conservation and sustainable management of aquatic resources. The programme was attended by Md. Tajuddin, SDO, Chakpikarong; Dr. R. K. Joteen Singh, Registrar, DMU; Prof. L. Hemchandra Singh, Dean, DMU; Ts. Berek, Chairman, ANCACSD, Dr. B. D. Shangningam, Assistant Professor, DMU along with faculty members, scientists, officials, fish farmers and other stakeholders from the region. Dr. B. D. Shangningam, Assistant Professor, DMU coordinated the programme. The programme was organised as a collaborative initiative under the broader vision of "Sustainable Aquaculture, Community Empowerment and the Blue Revolution towards Viksit Bharat."

