

Conservation initiatives of the ICAR-NBFGR in Western Ghats region: Ranching of captive propagated seeds of a newly described fish

Vettilapara, 10.05.2025

As a conservation initiative, captive propagated young ones of *Horabagrus obscurus*, a new species, described by the ICAR-NBFGR, were ranched in the Chalakudy river, Kerala. The species possesses conservation importance and potential for aquaculture. The scientists of ICAR-NBFGR have developed captive propagation technology, and the young ones raised (2000 advanced fingerlings) in the hatchery were introduced to their natural habitat (Vettilapara, Chalakudy river, Kerala) on 10 May 2025. Dr. Kajal Chakraborty, Director, ICAR-NBFGR, presided the event and indicated the role of the ranching programme in conservation of the species and protection of associated vulnerable habitats and their unique aquatic life for future generations. The Chief Guest Dr. Grinson George, Director, ICAR-CMFRI, emphasized the importance of the event in the conservation of valuable species and its sustainable utilisation. Followed, an input distribution event for fishers under the STC component of the institute was also organised. Inputs such as fishing nets, head torches and fish carrier bags were provided to the 20 tribal fishers of the region for livelihood development. A total of 50 local personnel, including forest and local panchayat officials, fishers and fish farmers, participated in the event. Dr. V.S. Basheer & Dr. Charan Ravi, Scientists of the bureau, coordinated the event.

