

ICAR-NBFGR Establishes livelihood development facility for Local Communities and Ranches Endangered Fish Species for Conservation initiative

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ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources established a demonstration and training facility for the breeding of indigenous fishes of the Western Ghats of Kerala region at Rayamanagalam Panchayat, Perumbavoor, Ernakulam District, Kerala, under the SCSP component under the leadership and guidance of Dr Uttam Kumar Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR. The initiative aimed to develop the livelihood of the SC community of the region through the culture of indigenous food and ornamental fishes. The facility was inaugurated on 05 September 2024 by Dr. B. Madhusoodana Kurup, Former Vice Chancellor, KUFOS, Kerala, in the presence of Dr. Uttam Kumar Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR, Dr T T Ajith Kumar, Principal Scientist & Head, PAGR Centre, ICAR-NBFGR, Kochi and the officials Rayamangalam Panchayat. On this occasion, the fishery inputs, such as boat, fish seeds, nets, etc., were distributed among beneficiaries. The institute has organized a fish ranching programme in collaboration with the Forest and Wildlife Department, Kerala. Young ones of Malabar catfish, *Clarias dussumieri*, Yellow catfish, *Horabagrus brachysoma* were released in the Periyar River at Malayattoor as a conservation initiative of the indigenous fishes of the Western Ghats. Dr VS Basheer, Principal Scientist & Dr Charan Ravi, Scientist, coordinated the events.

