

## **Honourable Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, IAS, OSD, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying lauds the research efforts of ICAR-NBFG**

ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow is a premier fisheries research institute under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India, which is engaged in research on enhancing fish production in the country and conservation of fish species in natural habitats through exploration, cataloguing, evaluation and characterization of Indian fish species. The Institute has expanded its research programmes in important areas such as whole genome sequencing, fish population genetics, fish transcriptomics, ex-situ and in-situ fish conservation, fish sperm cryobanking, fish molecular disease diagnosis and therapy, national surveillance programme for aquatic life diseases, antimicrobial resistance in fisheries, aquaculture and discovery of new and unexplored geographical areas for assessment of fish diversity.

Today, on 08.05.2023, Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, IAS, Officer on Special Duty, Department of Fisheries, Government of India, visited the headquarters premises of the Institute at Lucknow and held an interactive walk the talk meeting with the fish farmers. Dr Likhi visited the Fish Farm, National Fish Museum and Repository, and Ganga Aquarium, and opined that institute should be more visible on social media as a knowledge repository. During the interaction meet with Farmers and scientists of the institute, a presentation was made by Dr. Uttam Kumar Sarkar, Director ICAR-NBFG. Dr Likhi appreciated the research efforts of ICAR-NBFG and encouraged working with National Efforts and priorities for conservation development and management of the fisheries resources in aligning the Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. N.S. Rahmani, Joint Director, Department of Fisheries, Government of Uttar Pradesh. Farmers from Barabanki, Lucknow, Maharajganj and adjoining districts of Uttar Pradesh were present in the programme, who interacted about their own fisheries methods, income earned and the help being received by the scientists of the institute in fish farming. Dr. Likhi observed the edible and ornamental fish species reared in the fish farm of the institute and encouraged to expand livelihood generation opportunities through them as well as to explore many startups operating in the country in the field of fisheries to increase national fish production and to take up innovative start-ups for the fishing community. Dr. Likhi said that the central and state fisheries departments are together making efforts of the fish production in the country to a new record level. Dr Rahmani stated that the State will incorporate valuable suggestions and guidance to work with stakeholders for sustainable fish production and livelihood support of the fishers and fish farmers in the most vibrant State Uttar Pradesh. Smt Ram Kali, a lead woman fish farmer informed the members to adapt the technological interventions in fish farming thus helping to increase the income. Shri. Ram Baksh ji, a progressive farmer and ICAR-NBFG beneficiary from Barabanki informed the gathering about his success in fish farming. During the programme, U.P. Special Secretary and Director of Fisheries Department, Shri. Prashant Sharma, IAS informed the fish farmers about the government schemes to promote fisheries and assured them of all possible help from the state government. Dr. Likhi also visited the fish farm of progressive fish farmers in Mishripur village in Deva block of Barabanki district. Dr. Likhi also stressed the need to enhance the value chain to connect the fish seed to the market through innovation and cooperation with FPOs.



Honourable Dr. Likhi interacting with fish farmers at ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow





Honourable Dr. Likhi releasing fish seeds and witnessing fish harvesting at ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow





Honourable Dr. Likhi visiting fish brooders and hatchery at ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow





Honourable Dr. Likhi interacting with scientists at ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow



Honourable Dr. Likhi visiting Ganga Aquarium at ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow