

## ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow, organised ICAR-APAARI Regional Capacity Building Program on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Asia-Pacific Nations

The ICAR-NBFGR and Asia Pacific Associations of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Bangkok, Thailand, organized 10 days long an online virtual International training programme on ‘**Regional capacity building on biotechnological tools in aquatic genetic resource management and *ex-situ* conservation**’ for Asia-Pacific countries’ during December 07-18, 2020. This collaboration was in the mission to achieve the United Nations- Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG-17 on Partnerships for the Goal).

A total of 35 participants from 14 countries (from Asia & Pacific region including India) wee participated in the program. The aim of the program was to enhance the skill of researchers working in aquaculture production and fisheries sectors. The important part was that 11 countries has nominated women participants (22 nos.) working in fisheries sector and, thus, extending helps for mission of women empowerment and also to achieve the United Nations- Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-5: as Gender Equality and SDG-4: Quality Education).



Among the International experts on fisheries sector in world scenario, who made deliberations were: Dr. Graham Mair, Senior Aquaculture Officer with the Fisheries Division at Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Dr. Daniela Lucente, Consultant in the Aquaculture branch of FAO’s Fisheries Division (NFI). Mr. Simon Wilkinson, Editor of [www.enaca.org](http://www.enaca.org) and Aquaculture Asia Magazine and Lead Developer for the Tuskfish CMS project, Dr. Ruth Garcia Gomez, Aquaculture Stewardship Council as standards coordinator in charge of fish health and fish welfare standards and Dr. Catherin Lebbe, Deputy Director of Fish Physiology and Genomics Department of INRAE (former INRA), France. The scientists from ICAR-NBFGR also made their deliberations on different biotechnological tools followed by film on laboratory techniques, created by shooting and editing of laboratory techniques, followed by interaction session for making the training effective.



The inaugural session was Chaired by Dr. J. K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries), and along with Dr. Rishi K Tyagi, Coordinator, APCoABB, APAARI and welcome address by Dr. Kuldeep K. Lal, Director ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow. The opening expert lecture was delivered by Dr. Devin Bartley, Former Head, Aquaculture Services, FAO.



The valedictory function was chaired by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR, DG sir appreciated the step of training organisation through video film made by NBFGR after seeing the film on cell culture and virus isolation. He also assures to APAARI for better coordination from ICAR regarding capacity building initiatives of APAARI for Asia-Pacific region, and also distributed certificates to the participants. The other dignitaries present were Dr. J K Jena, Deputy Director General (Fy. Sc.), ICAR, Dr. Matthias Halwart, Head Aquaculture Division, FAO, Rome; Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary, APAARI; Dr. Rishi Kumar Tyagi, Coordinator, APCoAB, APAARI; and Dr. A G Ponniah, Former Director, ICAR-NBFGR and ICAR-CIBA; Directors of ICAR-CIBA and ICAR-DCFR.