

ICAR-NBFGR joined hands with the Department of Fisheries, Government of Sikkim, to explore the areas of collaboration for the conservation, development and management of fisheries resources

An innovative initiative was taken by the ICAR-NBFGR under the leadership of Dr. U. K. Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR, to explore the potential areas of collaboration with the Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Sikkim, for putting concentrated efforts towards the conservation, development and management of fisheries resources of Sikkim. The officials from the Directorate of Fisheries, Shri N Jaswant, IFS (Director), Shri C S Rai (Additional Director), Shri S Bhandari (Assistant Director), Shri N Sunar (Assistant Director) and other senior & field-level officials were part of the workshop organized by the Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Sikkim at Gangtok on June 17, 2023.



As Sikkim possesses vast aquatic resources and immense potential in aquaculture and fisheries development, ICAR-NBFGR is planning to take up the following collaborative work:

1. Promotion of Sikkim's 'State fish', i.e., Copper Mahseer / Katley (*Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*).
2. The exploratory survey in rivers and streams for documenting the fish biodiversity and ecological integrity.
3. Documentation of the traditional/ethnobiological knowledge of fishers and fish farmers.
4. Setting up of the ornamental fish village.
5. Establish the live fish germplasm resource centre for indigenous food and ornamental fishes.
6. Dissemination of broodstock development and seed production techniques.
7. Implement the central flagship schemes (i.e., NEH, STC, SCSP & PMMSY) for augmenting livelihood and community empowerment through participatory and co-management approaches.
8. Conservation and enhancement of the natural population of indigenous fishes through ex-situ and in-situ conservation measures like captive propagation, cryopreservation, stock enhancement and restoration through ranching.
9. Making Sikkim one of the lead collaborative partners in NE for aquaculture and fisheries development in the country.