

ICAR-NBFGR signed a remarkable MoU with the Fisheries Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh

ICAR-NBFGR signed a remarkable MoU with the Fisheries Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, on 07.06.2023 to facilitate stocking of State-fish of Uttar Pradesh '*Chitala chitala*' (Clown knifefish) in rivers and *Ompok bimaculatus* (Pabda/Butter catfish) as candidate species for farming in the state under the leadership of Dr. U. K. Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR. ICAR-NBFGR will provide technical support and guidance and facilitate the supply of fingerlings of *Chitala* to the Fisheries Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, for regular ranching in the state's rivers. The MoU was signed and exchanged by Dr. U. K. Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR and Shri Prasant Sharma, IAS, Director, Fisheries Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, in the presence of the Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Fisheries, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Nishad, Additional Chief Secretary, Fisheries Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Rajneesh Dube, IAS, and Chairperson, Uttar Pradesh Fisheries Development Corporation, Shri Ramakant Nishad.

Chitala was categorised as "Near Threatened" according to the IUCN list 2010. It's vital to conserve the population of *Chitala* in the rivers of Uttar Pradesh by way of regular ranching. The Fisheries Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, plans to carry out river ranching of *Chitala* in Uttar Pradesh for the next ten years. The Fisheries Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, has aimed to increase the income of fish farmers and has identified *Ompok bimaculatus* 'Pabda / Butter catfish' as a candidate species for farming in the state based on the recommendation of Dr. Sarkar. The Fisheries Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, has partnered with ICAR-NBFGR for technical support.

