

ICAR-NBFGR signed and exchanged the MoU with Rallis India Ltd.-A TATA Enterprise and Agrinnovate India Ltd. for the licensing of OoNIL, for Treatment of Fish Oomycete Diseases

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ICAR–National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR), Lucknow, achieved a major milestone in technology commercialisation by signing and exchanging a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rallis India Ltd.-A TATA Enterprise, and Agrinnovate India Ltd., for the licensing of the *OoNIL*, for Treatment of Fish Oomycete Diseases in the freshwater aquaculture. The programme was graced by the distinguished presence of Chief Guest, Dr. J. K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, whose visionary leadership and continued guidance have been instrumental in fostering research–industry linkages and promoting innovation-driven growth in the fisheries sector. The MoU exchange was carried out under the leadership of Dr. Kajal Chakraborty, Director, ICAR-NBFGR, marking a significant step toward strengthening public–private partnerships and accelerating the field-level adoption of ICAR-developed technologies. ICAR-NBFGR extended a warm welcome to Dr. Praveen Malik, CEO, Agrinnovate India Ltd.; Dr. Gyanendra Shukla, Managing Director and CEO, Rallis India Ltd.; and Shri Kinshuk Bhandari, Head, Aqua Business, Rallis India Ltd., and their team members, and acknowledged their confidence in the ICAR-NBFGR's scientific expertise and technological capabilities. The tripartite collaboration between ICAR-NBFGR, Agrinnovate India Ltd., and Rallis India Ltd. aimed at the licensing and commercialisation of *OoNIL*, reflecting a collective commitment to translating scientific innovations into practical solutions for Treatment of Fish Oomycete Diseases. The institute acknowledged the contributions of the inventors—Dr. P. K. Pradhan, Dr. Neeraj Sood, Dr. Gaurav Rathore, and Dr. Anutosh Paria, whose sustained research and commitment made this technology possible. Appreciation was also extended to Agrinnovate India Ltd. for facilitating the technology transfer process, and to Rallis India Ltd. for partnering with ICAR-NBFGR in the deployment of this important innovation.



OoNIL is a scientifically validated, non-antibiotic formulation developed by ICAR-NBFGR for the effective management of major oomycete diseases affecting cultured aquatic organisms. Oomycete diseases, particularly Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome caused by *Aphanomyces invadans*, and Saprolegniosis caused by *Saprolegnia parasitica*, are among the most destructive health challenges in freshwater aquaculture, often leading to severe economic losses and, in extreme cases, mortality levels approaching 100%. Developed under the ICAR All-India Network Project on Fish Health, *OoNIL* targets multiple life stages of the pathogen, including zoospore production, germination, and hyphal growth, while ensuring safety for cultured species, farmers, and the aquatic environment. Extensive field validation conducted over a four-year period across more than 400 farms in different states has demonstrated high efficacy, with nearly 85% of affected farms reporting complete cessation of mortality following application. The formulation represents a significant advancement toward disease management. The licensing of *OoNIL* is expected to facilitate efficient dissemination of the technology. The collaboration aligns with the broader vision of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to promote technology commercialisation, encourage industry participation, and support innovation-led growth.