

## **11<sup>th</sup> Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum**

The Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB) has been organizing Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (IFAF) once in every three years in different parts of the country, since its inception in 1986. The recent 11<sup>th</sup> IFAF was hosted by the ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT), at Hotel Le Meridien, Kochi, Kerala during 21-24 November, 2017.

The objectives of the forum were to:

1. Provide a scientific platform to deliberate on the current research outputs and identify the research and development needs of the sector,
2. Nurture innovation skills to address issues of sustainability and safety of fish,
3. Encourage scientists to think, develop and undertake need-based research to address core issues affecting fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The Technical Sessions of the Forum were held under 10 different themes, which covered the entire gamut of fisheries related disciplines. The different sessions were:

1. Fisheries Resources: Genetics, Biodiversity and Management
2. Fishing Systems for Sustainable Fisheries
3. Fishery Biology, Toxicology and Environment
4. Aquaculture Production
5. Aquatic Animal Health Management
6. Adding Value to Fish: Avenues in Fish Processing and Packaging
7. Safe Fish: Quality, Risk Assessment and Regulations
8. Fishomics and Frontier Sciences for Blue Bio-economy
9. Socio-Economics, Gender, Capacity Building and Livelihood
10. Fisheries Trade, Policy and Governance

In addition to the above 10 different sessions, four parallel events were also conducted as part of the Forum. These included:

1. Symposium on “Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries in India (GAF- India)” - organized by the GAF section of the Asian Fisheries Society.
2. Regional Dialogue on “Management of Highly Migratory Fish Species in the Bay of Bengal” – organized by Ocean Partnership Project – Bay of Bengal (Opp-Bob).
3. Forging A New Frontier: Increasing Seafood Consumption in India – organized by the Association of International Seafood Professionals.

4. Aquaculturists and Seafood Processors Conclave – interaction of aquafarmers, entrepreneurs, scientists, policy makers and other stakeholders.

## **INAUGURAL FUNCTION**

The Forum was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017. Hon'ble Governor of Kerala Shri Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam; Smt. J. Mercykutty Amma, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Harbour Engineering and Cashew Industry, Government of Kerala; Dr. K.T. Jaleel, Minister for Local Administration, Government of Kerala; Shri K.V. Thomas, Hon'ble MP, Ernakulam; Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG (Fisheries Science), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. C.N. Ravishankar, Convener, IFAF and Director, CIFT; and Dr. B. A. Shamasundar, Secretary AFSIB, Mangalore were the dignitaries on the dais. The other dignitaries who attended the inaugural function included the Directors of different research and development institutions, officials from the state departments, academicians, fishermen representatives, researchers and students.

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu called upon fishery scientists and policy makers to draw upon an outlook, focusing on the judicious use of the fishery resources by reducing losses and increasing value addition and supplementing the increasing demand for fish through modern aquaculture technologies and sustainable fishing. The Hon'ble Vice President expressed satisfaction over India's contribution to global fish production and agricultural GDP of the country by fish and fish products as the sector contributes to 1.1% of the GDP and 5.5% of the agricultural GDP. He called for implementing the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) as well as bringing in a more regulated and well managed fishing environment through capture fisheries policies and governance, as well as addressing marine conservation concerns.

Hon'ble Governor of Kerala in his speech stressed that there are several areas of concerns and constraints for fishers and aquaculturists in the country. He observed that scientific gatherings should provide outputs for common people, fish farmers and primary producers. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR highlighted the contributions of ICAR towards doubling fish farmers' income. He emphasized on the efforts taken up since independence by the fisheries institutes under ICAR in realizing a Blue Revolution in India. Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG (Fisheries Science) welcomed the gathering. Smt. J. Mercykutty Amma, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Harbour Engineering and Cashew Industry, Government of Kerala, stressed the need for innovations in fisheries and urged the gathering to come up with technologies that will benefit the fishers.



Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu inaugurating the Forum



Hon'ble Vice President released the Book of Abstracts





A section of the audience at the inaugural function

The inaugural function was followed by the Award Ceremony of AFSIB in which Smt. J. Mercykutty Amma was the Chief Guest and Shri K.V. Thomas was the Guest of Honour. Smt. Mercykutty Amma gave away different awards of the AFSIB viz. **Gratitude Awards** (Posthumously to Professor H.P.C. Shetty-founder President and Dr. M.C. Nandeeshha-founder Secretary, AFSIB), **Lifetime Achievement Awards** (Marine Fisheries-Dr E.G. Silas, Former Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University and Inland Aquaculture-Dr. K.V. Devaraj, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore), **Gender Justice and Equity Award** (Dr. Meryl J. Williams, Former Director General, WorldFish Center), **Professor H.P.C. Shetty Award** (Dr. Kajal Chakraborty, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CMFRI, Cochin), and also awards of other Societies, viz., **SOFTI Biennial Award** (Dr. S.D. Tripathi, Former Vice Chancellor, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai), **Dr. T.V.R. Pillai Award** (Dr. P. Swain, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar), **Shri J.V.H. Dixitulu National Award** (Dr. Aparna Roy, Scientist, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore) and **Professor Nandeeshha Farmers' Innovation Award** (Shared by Dr. Nina Singh and Shri Ravindra Karvi) as part of the triennial event. She complimented the recipients of the awards. She wished that work and contributions of the award winning scientists and farmers in their respective fields will certainly set the standards for the younger generations to emulate and motivate them to do more for the fisheries and aquaculture sector. PFGF Awards were given away by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Director General, ICAR. The winners of PFGF awards are the following.

Dr. N.R. Menon best PG thesis award- Ms. Sudeshna Sarker of West Bengal University of Animal and Fisheries Sciences, Kolkata

#### Best Fisheries Graduates of India 2015-16

Dr. K. C. Naik Award - Mr. Sutanu Karmakar  
Prof. H. P. C. Shetty Award - Mr. Riyas Rahman P.K.  
Dr. E. G. Silas Award - Ms. Kasturi Chattopadhyay  
Dr. T. J. Varghese Award - Mr. Tapas Paul  
Dr. K. V. Devaraj Award - Ms. Saumya Pandey

#### Best Fisheries Graduates of India 2016-17

Dr. K. C. Naik Award - Ms. Muthu M. Abishag  
Prof. H. P. C. Shetty Award - Mr. Pratap M. G.  
Dr. E. G. Silas Award - Mr. Aditya Kumar Baruah  
Dr. T. J. Varghese Award - Ms. Susmita Mukherjee  
Dr. K. V. Devaraj Award - Mr. Tushar Madhukar Walunj

The second day of the Forum started with the Keynote address by Professor Mohan Joseph Modayil, former Member ASRB and former Director, ICAR-CMFRI. He stressed the need for fostering innovations in the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector in the country. He evaluated the present status of capture fisheries and aquaculture in India and highlighted the emerging trends in technology innovations and adoptions in capture, post-harvest processing and aquaculture. He emphasized the need for market intelligence while designing products for export, keeping in view the emerging consumer preferences across the world by the new generation for fish as a snack item. Further, he stressed on the need for a concerted effort by all stakeholders to meet the rising demand of fish in the country, by adopting newer technologies and producing responsibly, while reducing the over-capacity and managing the natural fishery resources sustainably.

### **TECHNICAL SESSIONS**

A total of 95 eminent personalities from India and abroad Co-Chaired the various sessions and delivered invited lectures under the different themes. About 270 oral presentations were included under different sessions and around 300 posters were presented by the delegates from India and abroad. Invited speakers from abroad were from the United States, Thailand, Kuwait, Canada, Japan, Australia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and China. Invited speakers included experts who are researchers, policy makers or eminent industrialists, well recognised in their respective fields.

The 10 different themes of the Forum were covered through as many as 21 Technical Sessions, conducted in four different halls in parallel.

## PLENARY SESSION

The Plenary Session was held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. Dr. J.K. Jena, President, AFS and DDG (Fisheries Science) chaired the session. Dr. C.N. Ravishankar, Director, ICAR-CIFT and Convener of the Forum welcomed the gathering. Dr. J.K. Jena highlighted the importance of the event and also gave his concluding remarks. Dr. K. Gopakumar, Dr. Mohan Joseph Modayil, Dr. K.V. Devaraj and Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan presented their impressions about the event and shared their experience. Announcing the venue of the next IFAF, Dr. J.K. Jena informed the house that the 12<sup>th</sup> IFAF will be conducted by the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University at Chennai during 2020. The best paper awards under the different sessions (Oral and Poster presentations), AFSIB Young Scientist Awards and awards of Society of Fisheries and Life Sciences (SFLS) were announced during the plenary. Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG (Fisheries Science), ICAR; Dr. Manjulakshmi, Scientist, ICAR-CIFT; Dr. Parvathy, U., Scientist, ICAR-CIFT and Dr. G.B. Sreekanth, Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute, Goa received the AFSIB Young Scientist Awards. Dr. Neeraj Kumar, Scientist, National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management and Dr. Mohd Ashraf Rather, Assistant Professor, College of Fisheries, Ratnagiri, received the SFLS Young Scientist awards, while Dr. Amiya Kumar Sahoo and Dr. D.K. Meena, Scientists from ICAR-CIFRI were the recipients of the SFLS Fellow awards. Dr. J.K. Jena gave away the awards. The following 20 received the best presentation awards under different themes.

1. A.M. Babitharani (Oral), P.M. Nuzaiiba (Poster) - Aquaculture Production
2. Grinson George (Oral), K.S. Sobhana (Poster) - Fisheries Resources: Genetics, Biodiversity and Management
3. K. Elavarasan (Oral), C.O. Mohan (Poster) - Adding Value to Fish: Avenues in Fish Processing and Packaging
4. S. Dasgupta (Oral), Muktha Menon (Poster) - Fishery Biology, Toxicology and Environment
5. K. Riji John (Oral), B.U. Supreetha (Poster) - Aquatic Animal Health Management
6. K. Nagalakshmi (Oral), Laly, S.J. (Poster) - Safe Fish: Quality, Risk Assessment and Regulations.
7. M.P. Remesan (Oral), M.V. Baiju (Poster) - Fishing Systems for Sustainable Fisheries
8. P. Krishnan (Oral), Prathiba Rohit (Poster) - Fisheries Trade, Policy and Governance

9. R. Sarvanan (Oral), S.T. Indulkar(Poster) - Socio-Economics, Gender, Capacity Building and Livelihood

10. D. Thakuria (Oral), T.R. Cibin (Poster) - Fishomics and Frontier Sciences for Blue Bio-economy

These awards were presented by Dr. K.V.Devaraj (Former Vice Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore) and Dr. K. Gopakumar, Former DDG (Fisheries), ICAR. Dr. B.A. Shamasundar, Secretary, AFSIB proposed the vote of thanks.



Smt. Manoramma Shetty receiving the Gratitude Award presented posthumously to Professor H.P.C.Shetty



Dr. P. Keshavanath receiving the Gratitude Award presented posthumously to Dr.M.C. Nandeesh





Dr. E.G. Silas, Former Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award (Marine Fisheries)



Dr. K.V. Devaraj, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award (Inland Aquaculture)





Dr. Meryl J. Williams, Former Director General, WorldFish Center, receiving the Gender Justice and Equity Award



Dr. S.D. Tripathi, Former Vice Chancellor, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, receiving the SOFTI Biennial Award



Dr. Kajal Chakraborty, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CMFRI, Cochin, receiving Professor H.P.C. Shetty Award



Dr. Swain, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar, receiving Dr. T.V.R. Pillai Award





Dr. Aparna Roy, Scientist, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, receiving Shri J.V.H. Dixitulu National Award



Dr. Nina Singh receiving Professor Nandeesh's Farmers' Innovation Award



Shri Ravindra Karvi receiving Professor Nandeesh's Farmers' Innovation Award