

Workshop on Ornamental Fisheries Entrepreneurship Development

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) & Government of West Bengal jointly organised a workshop on “Ornamental Fisheries Entrepreneurship Development” on **25 January 2020 at Kolkata.**

The participants were fish farmers, members of cooperative societies, entrepreneurs, exporter and officials from Fisheries Department and Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Government of West Bengal, officials from National & State level Organizations like ICAR, FISHCOPFED, BENFISH, WB SFDC, NFDB, CIFE, CIFRI, COFFED, TSCOF, FISHFED (Odisha). The workshop was well received and attended by 97 participants from nine states namely Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam.

The workshop brought stakeholders representing all sectors on one platform and brainstormed on the new business opportunities to encourage entrepreneurship and avenues for employment generation in “Ornamental Fisheries” sector. The workshop also identified the bottlenecks at the policy and the implementation level of the government schemes for the Sector.

Shri. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Managing Director NCDC in his welcome speech highlighted that ornamental fisheries sector will contribute towards attaining the government vision of doubling farmers’ income by 2022 and making India a 5 trillion \$ economy by 2024-25. He stressed that this sector will generate employment opportunities, alleviating poverty and contributing to the growth of national income by enhancing foreign exchange earnings.

Dr. M.V. Rao, Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Dept. & Cooperation Department, Govt. of West Bengal, Dr. J. Balaji, Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Govt. of India and Dr. C. Suvarna, IFoS, Commissioner of Fisheries, Govt. of Telangana & MD, TSCOF addressed the gathering. Shri Tarun Sridhar, Senior Advisor, NCDC delivered the key note address.

Dr. Joykrushna Jena, Deputy Director General, Fisheries Science & Animal Science, ICAR, New Delhi gave a technical overview on the topic and the business opportunity for the fish farmers and entrepreneurs.

The Workshop had 3 Thematic Sessions namely (i) “Ornamental Fisheries Landscape in India – Prospects and Issues” chaired by Shri. S. Kishore, Additional Chief Secretary, Fisheries Department, GoWB and the Key Speakers were Dr. B. K. Mahapatra, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFE and Dr. B.K Mondal, Consultant (P&RD), GoWB; (ii) “Infrastructure, Value Chains and Ancillary Activities in Ornamental Fisheries – Potential and Scope” chaired by Dr. C. Suvarna, IFoS, Commissioner of Fisheries, Govt. of Telangana & MD, Telangana State Fishermen Cooperative Federation Limited and the Key Speakers were Dr. Archana Sinha, Principal Scientist, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education and Dr. G. Ramakrishna Rao, Senior Executive (Tech), National Fisheries Development Board; and (iii) “Involving Collectives (Cooperatives, SHGs and Others) in enhancing production and institutional support available” was chaired by Dr. MV Rao, Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat & Rural Development

Department and the Key Speakers were Shri. B.K.Mishra, Managing Director, FISHCOPFED and Lt.Col. Bikramjit Singh, Chief Director (LINAC), NCDC. Question & Answer sessions were followed at the end of each thematic session.

The concluding remarks on the workshop was given by Shri. Tarun Shridhar, Senior Adviser, NCDC and Dr. J. Balaji, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), GoI. Shri Snehangshu Goswami, Regional Director, NCDC delivered the vote of thanks.