

Captive breeding of *Labeo pungusia*, an endemic hill stream fish of North East India in PPP mode

Labeo pungusia is an important endemic fish of North East India distributed in hill streams of this region. However, the population of the fish is drastically declining in nature due to various natural and anthropogenic factors and considered as threatened species as per IUCN red list status. To conserve and rehabilitate this important fish of North East India, ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal has made an effort to rear the fish in captivity at the hatchery premises of Eco-camp, ABACA, Nameri, Assam in PPP mode for a period of three years since 2012. The fry of the fish (20 nos.) were collected from Jia-Bharali river of Assam and were reared in a cement cistern (21x12x1.5 m). In the month of July, 2015, both male and female fish were found to attain sexual maturity (3+ age) and induced breeding (three pairs weighing 1.3-1.5 kg) was successfully carried out. A total of 3.75-4.0 lakh eggs were produced resulting 1.9 lakh spawn. The protocol developed for seed production of this important hill stream fish by ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal & ABACA through captive breeding is the first record of its kind in North East and is an important breakthrough for hill aquaculture and conservation.



Matured female of *L. Pungusia*



Matured male of *L. Pungusia*



Fertilised eggs



Rearing of fry