

## **National Consultation on “Rainbow Trout Farming: Prospects and Challenges for Strategic Development”, 20-21 September, 2015**

ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research organized two days *National Consultation on “Rainbow Trout Farming: Prospects and Challenges for Strategic Development”* during 20-21 September, 2015 at Bhimtal, Nainital in collaboration with Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi and National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad. The National Consultation was aimed at addressing the problems and challenges of invigorating the rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) farming in the country. Rainbow trout is one of the promising cultivable fish species in coldwater and has considerable scope for its expansion. Being a low volume high value commodity, it has considerable potential for domestic consumption as well as foreign export. However, to achieve higher production and productivity better governance and significant improvement in the management practices are required.

The two days consultation meet was chaired by Sh. Aditya K Joshi, Joint Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. Participants from the trout producing states, like Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand attended the National Consultation. Apart from this, trout growers from different hill states, scientists from different institutes and State Agricultural Universities also participated in the programme. In this National Consultation various issues on system and production, management practices as well as processing and value addition of rainbow trout were deliberated.

In his keynote address, Dr. A.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-DCFR highlighted the importance of rainbow trout as coldwater cultivable species, its global and national status. He emphasized upon need of plugging the technology gaps and strengthening of initiated efforts by ICAR-DCFR with the support of state fisheries departments and stakeholders. He also reiterated that rainbow trout, being a commercial cultivable species needs adequate attention in the areas of farm management practices, culture system, inputs and trout marketing by development organization and policymakers.

During the National Consultation interactions between different stakeholders were held to highlight the prospects and challenges in trout farming. Issues related to research, planning and policies were discussed and a national strategy was formulated for expansion of trout farming in India. Low cost trout feed, disease surveillance, GIS based planning and establishing of seed and brood bank were main issues to be addressed in order to achieving the target production.

Director/ representatives of the state fisheries departments such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh presented their current status and challenges of trout farming in their respective states. After thorough discussion with all stakeholders, a road map was prepared to enhance the productivity and production of rainbow trout in Himalyan states based on the projections for next five years.