

## Mahseer Seed Ranching in Teesta River of Sikkim on World Environment Day (5<sup>th</sup> June, 2017)

ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research, Bhimtal in collaboration with Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Sikkim celebrated the “World Environment Day”, 5<sup>th</sup> of June, 2017 by ranching mahseer fingerlings at Dikchu, Teesta river of Sikkim for rehabilitation and conservation in presence of Shri Somnath Poudyal ji, Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Govt. of Sikkim, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest along with other dignitaries. An awareness camp was also organised on the occasion to create awareness to protect the natural environment of the river to save the magnificent mahseer, “Tiger of Water”. Dr. A.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-DCFR welcomes all the dignitaries and explained the inevitability to conserve mahseer which is a keystone species in the river. On the occasion, Hon’ble minister communicated his happiness for organising such type of program in Sikkim by DCFR to protect the riverine habitat and highlighted the significance of natural biodiversity and its importance to conserve indigenous fish fauna of the region in order to bring our river back to life. 5000 numbers of fingerlings produced at DCFR mahseer hatchery was transported to Sikkim on the occasion. Dr. Debajit Sarma, Principal Scientist of DCFR stated that mahseer is not just the fish; it rather is an aquatic tiger, so let’s come together and restore this fish in Himalayan Rivers of Sikkim. Dr. Prakash Sharma, Scientist and Dr. R.S.Haldar, ACTO co-ordinated the program and witnessed by state fisheries officers, farmers and anglers.

