

ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal Celebrates 37th Foundation Day

ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research, Bhimtal celebrated its 37th foundation day on 24th September 2024. ICAR-DCFR is the only premier research institute in the country working towards sustainable development of coldwater aquaculture, management, and conservation of the hill stream fishes. The Directorate was established in 1987 under the administrative control of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. In his welcome address, Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Director, ICAR-DCFR, congratulated the scientists, progressive fish farmers, and stakeholders who have contributed to the remarkable journey of ICAR-DCFR over the past 37 years. He highlighted their collective efforts in advancing research and practices that support fisheries and aquaculture in the fragile Indian Himalayan Region due to which rainbow trout production has increased three folds during the last three years.

The chief guest, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi, applauded the Director and scientific staff of ICAR-DCFR on the momentous occasion. He appreciated the commendable work done by the scientists of the Directorate in Himalayan states for the overall growth of Coldwater fisheries and aquaculture. He highlighted the role of fisheries in uplifting the socio-economic status of fish farmers and providing nutrition and food security to the country. He emphasized the importance of raising awareness about the medicinal benefits of fish and urged the Directorate to showcase its work for proper recognition. He could foresee a lot of opportunities for start ups, based on the technologies developed by the directorate.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Mohanty, Director, ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cattle, Meerut, spoke about the need to promote the vertical expansion of aquaculture to meet the increasing demand for fish. He laid emphasis on making farming commercially viable by strengthening interlinkages with other sectors of the economy. Additionally, he underscored the significance of integrated agricultural practices in combating climate change, advocating for innovative approaches and multidisciplinary expertise to help double farmers' incomes.

Dr. Y.S. Malik, Joint Director, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteshwar, Nainital emphasized the potential for collaborations between research organizations and underscored the need for integrated fish farming and value addition. Shri Hage Tari, IOFS, Secretary Fisheries, Department of Arunachal Pradesh congratulated the Director, DCFR for excellent leadership and conveyed his best wishes on this occasion. He highlighted the support provided by DCFR to the Department of Fisheries, Government of Arunachal Pradesh in the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the state. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of fostering linkages between scientific institutes and stakeholders to ensure effective dissemination of technologies among end-users. He wished to have

a centre of the directorate in the state of Arunachal Pradesh for the development of coldwater aquaculture in NEH region.

On this occasion, farm inputs were distributed to the fish the farmers of a village adopted by ICAR-DCFR. The event witnessed a gathering of 140 participants, including fish farmers, officials, scientists, students, entrepreneurs and stakeholders.

