

ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal Elevated to ICAR-Central Institute of Coldwater Fisheries Research

In a landmark development for the field of Coldwater Fisheries Research in India, the ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research (ICAR-DCFR), Bhimtal, was officially elevated to the status of ICAR-Central Institute of Coldwater Fisheries Research (CICFR). The momentous occasion was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the institute's campus in Bhimtal on 21st Feb., 2025.

The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including the Secretary DARE & DG Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), who served as the Chief Guest. The ceremony marked a significant milestone in the journey of the institution, which has been at the forefront of advancing coldwater fisheries research and promoting sustainable aquaculture practices in the Indian Himalayan Region.

Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Director, ICAR-DCFR, welcomed the gathering and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR, and the entire ICAR fraternity for their unwavering support in upgrading the Directorate to an Institute. In his address, Dr. Pandey highlighted the remarkable achievements of the institution over the years, highlighting its contributions to scientific research, capacity building, and technological innovations in coldwater fisheries and aquaculture. Dr. Pandey said that the elevation to a Central Institute is not just a recognition of our past accomplishments but also a mandate for future growth and new status will enable us to expand our research horizons, foster international collaborations, and play a pivotal role in addressing the challenges faced by the coldwater fisheries sector.

The Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR, congratulated the scientific, technical and administrative staff of ICAR-DCFR for their dedication and commitment to excellence. In his keynote address, the Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR emphasized the importance of coldwater fisheries in ensuring food security, livelihoods, and ecological sustainability. He lauded the institute's efforts in developing cutting-edge technologies and organising training programs that have benefited fish farmers and stakeholders across the Himalayan and other coldwater regions of India. He highlighted that this elevation is a testament to the hard work and vision of the scientists and staff of the institute. As a Central Institute, it will now have greater autonomy and responsibility to undertake transformative research and contribute to the nation's goal of becoming a global leader in fisheries and aquaculture.

Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG, Fisheries Science, Dr. Devika Pillai, ADG, Inland Fisheries and Dr. Yashpal Singh Malik, Joint Director, ICAR-IVRI Mukteshwar also congratulated the director and staff, acknowledging their relentless efforts in making the institute a center of excellence. They expressed confidence that the institute's new status would further strengthen its capacity to address critical issues in coldwater fisheries, such as climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable aquaculture practices.

The elevation of ICAR-DCFR to a Central Institute is expected to catalyze further advancements in coldwater fisheries research and education, paving the way for innovative solutions to meet the growing demands of the sector. With its renewed mandate, the institute is poised to make even greater strides in supporting the livelihoods of millions dependent on coldwater fisheries while safeguarding the environment for future generations.

All staff members, including scientists, technical, and administrative officials, were present on the occasion. A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Shanawaz Ali, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFRI, Bhimtal.





