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## National Fish Farmers Day Observed on 10<sup>th</sup> July

**Background:** It was on 10th July 1957 that Dr. Hiralal Choudhury for the first time achieved success in induced-breeding freshwater fish (Indian Major Carps) in captivity through administration of carp pituitary extract (Hypophysation). That breakthrough brought about a sea change in the country leading to higher fish production from culture fisheries than from capture fisheries and finally took the country's total fish production to the 2nd highest position in the world. In order to commemorate this day, Govt. of India in 2001 declared 10th July as the "National Fish Farmers Day".



Further, 10th July happens to be the Foundation Day of the NFDB, which came into existence in the year 2006, with HQ at Hyderabad, for giving a thrust to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector in the country. Thus, 10th July is a special day to NFDB and is therefore celebrated with gaiety.

**National Fish Farmers Day (NFFD-2018):** Observance of the Day was organized by the NFDB in a befitting manner on 9th and 10th July 2018 at YMCA Campus, Beach Road, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The Day is also observed by Fisheries Research Institutes/Fisheries Organizations of Govt. of India, and Fisheries Depts. of States.

The two-day celebrations comprised of: (i) Inaugural Programme, (ii) Technical Session, (iii) Exhibition and (iv) Fish Festival. Dr BK Chand, Executive Director, NFDB welcomed, Dr E Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Joint Secretary (Fy), DAHD&F, was the Chief Guest, Shri Ram Shankar Naik, IAS, Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., presided, Smt I Rani Kumudini, IAS,



**Smt I Rani Kumudini, Chief Executive, NFDB addressing the gathering**



**Dr. E. Ramesh Kumar, Joint Secretary (Fy), DADF inaugurating the exhibition**

Chief Executive of NFDB spoke and stated that all efforts would be made for taking the Fisheries Sector forward and offered to look into the issues raised for their proper redress. The CE declared that NFFD will be celebrated each year in one Fisheries State like West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, Odisha, etc. Shri Janardhan Gangaputra, Member, NFDB Governing Body, spoke and put forth some issues for the consideration of CE, NFDB. Shri Rathinaraj, Executive Director, NFDB proposed vote of thanks.

On behalf of the awardees, Shri UKV Raju, the renowned Aqua Farmer from Bhimavaram, A.P., Sri Biswajit Dutta, young fishery entrepreneur from Tripura, and Shri Ramchandra Raju, an IITian turned fish farmer of A.P. and Odisha spoke. In the Technical Sessions, all the 18 Awardees (listed below), one by one, spoke on their activities and performances, for which they have been recognized and honoured.



Joint Secretary, DADF, Chief Executive, NFDB, Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., Dignitaries and Visitors at the Exhibition and Fish Stalls at the Fish Festival

**NFFD-2018 Awards:** NFDB instituted awards to felicitate the outstanding Fish Farmers on this day every year, in recognition of their accomplishments in innovation, development and adoption of improved technologies and practices in fish farming. There are Nine Categories and under each two awards (1st & 2nd position). The Awardees were selected from among the nominations received from the State Dept. of Fisheries. The awardees were felicitated with a memento, shawl, certificate, citation and a cash prize of Rs. 51,000 for 1st position and Rs. 21,000 for the 2nd position.

### NFFD-2018 Awards – Category, States, Recipients and Position

Sl No	Category of Award	State	Name of the Awardee	Position
1	Best Fish Farmer – Inland States	Chhattisgarh	Shri Sukdeb Mandal	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Best Fish Farmer – Inland States	Jharkhand	Shri Swapan KR. Kaibarta	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3	Best Fish Hatchery – Inland States	Telangana	Shri Chethi Sri Ramulu	1 <sup>st</sup>
4	Best Fish Hatchery – Inland States	Jharkhand	Shri Prahlad Chaudhary	2 <sup>nd</sup>
5	Best Fish Farmer – Coastal States	Andhra Pradesh	Shri U.K. Viswanadha Raju	1 <sup>st</sup>
6	Best Fish Farmer – Coastal States	Andhra Pradesh	Shri V. Ramachandra Raju	2 <sup>nd</sup>
7	Best Fish Hatchery – Coastal States	Odisha	Shri Manoranjan Sahu	1 <sup>st</sup>
8	Best Fish Hatchery – Coastal States	Tamil Nadu	Shri S. Vaitheeswaran	2 <sup>nd</sup>
9	Best Fish Farmer – North-Eastern States	Tripura	Shri Biswajit Datta	1 <sup>st</sup>

Sl No	Category of Award	State	Name of the Awardee	Position
10	Best Fish Farmer – North-Eastern States	Manipur	Shri Tongbram Raghu Singh	2 <sup>nd</sup>
11	Best Fish Hatchery – North-Eastern States	Manipur	Shri Naorem Lashmon Singh	1 <sup>st</sup>
12	Best Fish Hatchery – North-Eastern States	Tripura	Shri Amulya Kumar Das	2 <sup>nd</sup>
13	Best Brackishwater Shrimp/Fish Farmer	Gujarat	Shri Manojbhai M. Sharma	1 <sup>st</sup>
14	Best Brackishwater Shrimp/Fish Farmer	Odisha	Shri Anjan KR. Dandapat	2 <sup>nd</sup>
15	Best Brackishwater Shrimp/Fish Hatchery	Andhra Pradesh	Shri V. Narendra Varma Raju	1 <sup>st</sup>
16	Best Brackishwater Shrimp/Fish Hatchery	Andhra Pradesh	Shri S. Suryanarayana Reddy	2 <sup>nd</sup>
17	Best Performing Cooperatives/SHG	Himachal Pradesh	Bhakra Fisheries Industrial Cooperative Society	1 <sup>st</sup>
18	Best Performing Cooperatives/SHG	Kerala	Kerala State Cooperative Federation for Fisheries Development Ltd. (MATSYAFED)	2 <sup>nd</sup>



Awardees speaking during the Technical Sessions (from left to right): Shri U K V Raju, Shri Sukhdev Mondal, Shri Ramchandra Raju, Shri Biswajit Dutta and Shri Tongbram Raghu Singh



Awardees being felicitated (from left to right): Shri Naorem Lashmon Singh being felicitated by Jt. Secretary (Fy); Smt I Rani Kumudini, Chief Executive, NFDB and Commissioner of Fisheries, AP giving cash award, citation and memento to awardees



Folk Dance by Fishermen Community during the Cultural Show and Felicitation to Fishermen group by NFDB Officials

## NFDB to Promote Aqua One Centers (AOCs)

NFDB proposes to establish a network of “Aqua One Centers (AOCs)” as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) at different strategic locations across the country by involving reputed Service Providers and Entrepreneurs having technical competence for promoting fisheries development and dissemination activities. The AOCs are expected to play a key role as an interface between NFDB, Seed Producers and Fish Farmers.

### Aim and Objectives

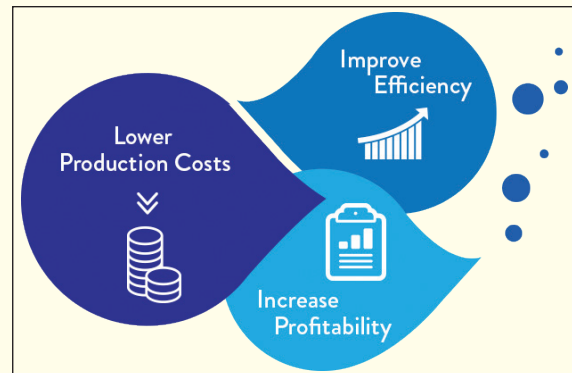
The AOC will provide Information & Communication Technology (ICT)-enabled Aquaculture Support Service to the Fish Farmers, disseminate newer technologies and innovations and facilitate their wider adoption for the sector’s growth; this would complement the existing Fisheries Extension System in the Country.

The AOC initiative aims to track e-traceability system; motivate, mobilize and encourage: (i) hatcheries (for production of improved strains fish spawn), (ii) seed growers (for rearing improved strain fish spawn/fry of to fingerlings); and finally (iii) fish producers to take up production of improved strains in the existing farming systems; and (iv) strengthen scientific management of production systems through knowledge support from AOCs on Best Management Practices (BMPs) at all levels of fish seed production, rearing and fish farming on an “end-to-end” basis, and facilitate wider dissemination and diffusion of improved fish both in seed chain and fish production.

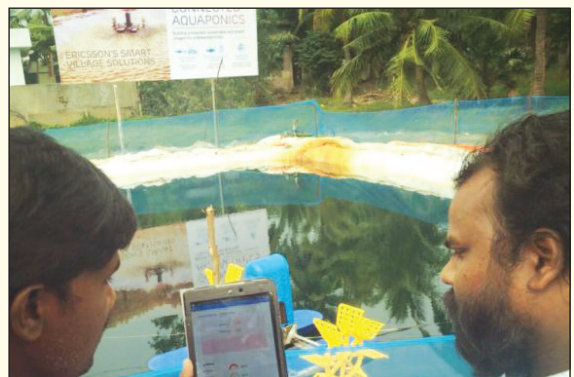
### Pattern of Financial Assistance

Unit cost of establishing ‘Aqua One Center’ including consumables and manpower support for one year is Rs. 20.00 lakh.

- (a) For a beneficiary of general category 40% of the unit cost with a ceiling of Rs. 8.00 lakh/unit as subsidy
- (b) For a beneficiary of SC/ST/Women category 60% of the unit cost with a ceiling of Rs. 12.00 lakh/unit as subsidy
- (c) For Govt. Fisheries Institutes:
  - (i) In General States 50% of unit cost with a ceiling of Rs. 10.00 lakh/unit as subsidy
  - (ii) For North East/Hilly States 80% of unit cost with a ceiling of Rs. 16.00 lakh/unit as subsidy.



Objectives of Aqua One Center – an ICT Enabled Aquaculture Support Service, to be promoted by NFDB



An instance of IoT driven Mobile App being demonstrated to Aqua Farmer in Mori village, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh [Photo Courtesy: Chrisanta Dias, networkedindia.com] [Source: Matsya Bharat, Volume 8, Issue 5, January - March 2017, pp. 13-14]

## Proposed Locations

Location of an AOC unit preferably is to be in a fish seed production and farming hub having road connectivity, approachability, better conveyance, etc. to facilitate visit of farmers to AOC unit for interaction and periodic visit of AOC staff to the field. A total of 96 Aqua One Centers are proposed to be funded by NFDB in the year 2018-19 in 14 States: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura and West Bengal.

## Application for Setting up Aqua One Centers (AOCs)

The NFDB has invited applications from interested and experienced entrepreneurs/firms/companies/organizations for setting up of Aqua One Center for providing ICT enabled Aquaculture Support Services like Farmer Enrolment, Pond Monitoring, Input Distribution, Data Management, Training Schedule Management, Advisory Services and to setup and manage Fish Health Laboratory Services. The application form can be downloaded from the website [nfdb.gov.in](http://nfdb.gov.in)

## The proposed AOCs will install ICT-enabled Advisory Service System to provide

- (i) Periodic Best Practice advisory and technical guidance on BMPs in respect of seed production/rearing, advisory on Feeding Chart, Fish Health Advisory whenever needed including management of diseases/preventive measures to be taken and emergency advisory on demand basis
- (ii) Suggestions for enhancing production and profitability
- (iii) Technical guidance/ information support on (a) types of basic inputs required viz., seed, feed, medicines, (b) supportive equipment/ accessories/ gadgets for different activities of hatchery operations, (c) seed rearing and fish farming, (d) quantification of inputs required with time-frame in case of different rearing/production processes, (e) sources of input suppliers to establish contacts/ liaison with the suppliers, negotiate supply conditions such as prices and delivery schedule, (f) harvesting and post-harvest/ value-addition, marketing and disposal of the fish, (g) provide information support to facilitate registered farmers in getting benefits such as subsidy/ financial assistance/input support and such others under the on-going Govt. programmes depending on their eligibility.

## Requirements

- (i) Service provider will develop a comprehensive action plan with time line for executing the activities and submit along with application.
- (ii) Selected AOC shall enter into MOU (a service level agreement) with NFDB before actually starting the service delivery.
- (iii) Service provider will facilitate organizing interaction workshops of enrolled famers with AOC technical team and experts of Project Monitoring Units (PMUs – Local, Regional and Central) for detailed deliberations on various aspects of project details, implementation, operational modalities, roles and responsibilities, etc. Also facilitate training of registered farmers on the proposed activities wherever required.
- (iv) The Field Coordinator of AOC shall be responsible for collection of reliable and valid data in the field using the requisite formats/ tools and also take photographs along with GPS co-ordinates. Also identify and document field level problems and constraints experienced during implementation, collect feedback, suggestions and modifications required etc. for wider dissemination and diffusion of technologies/

practices. Such documented information will be made over to the LPMU/RPMU/CPMU for their consideration and replication elsewhere wherever necessary.

- (v) The selected service providers will participate in review meetings at periodic intervals at NFDB, Hyderabad or any other place as informed by the Board.

### **Selection of Applicant**

- (i) The applicant will be selected based on verification and testimonials submitted and field visit to assess the ability of applicant to deliver the required services.
- (ii) NFDB will take up references and reserves the right to assess the ability of applicant.
- (iii) Shortlisted applicants will be invited for a detailed presentation before the scrutiny committee appointed by Chief Executive, NFDB, Hyderabad, if required.

## **Ushering Blue Revolution – Cage Culture of Fish in Indira Sagar Reservoir, Madhya Pradesh State**

NFDB formulated an action plan for implementation of Cage Culture in Inland Open Water Bodies, under Blue Revolution Scheme, to achieve an additional production of 5 million tonnes of fish by the end of 2020. In the first instance, it is proposed to establish 1000 cages across the country. NFDB supported several initiatives on cage culture in reservoirs through State Fisheries departments; first in Jharkhand (Chandil Reservoir), later in other States like Chhattisgarh, Assam, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, etc. To date, 3117 inland cages were installed across the country, of which 2553 are in reservoirs, 560 in beels/wetlands and 2 in coal pits. Though these projects achieved varying degree of success, in all cases it resulted in increased fish production and created additional livelihoods.

**Indirasagar Reservoir of Madhya Pradesh:** Considering the potential, NFDB proposes to implement Integrated Cage Culture Project in collaboration with Madhya Pradesh Fisheries Federation (Co-op) Limited, under the Department of Fishermen Welfare and Fisheries Development, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. Accordingly, consent has been given to install 100 Cages in the Indirasagar Reservoir of Madhya Pradesh. A portion of Indirasagar Reservoir, restricting to 10-15 hectare of water spread area, will be made available to NFDB for a period of 10 years for setting up Integrated Inland Cage Culture through interested entrepreneur with certain terms and conditions as specified by the Fisheries Federation of Madhya Pradesh. Indirasagar Reservoir is one of the largest reservoirs in the country, constructed on the mainstream of Narmada River in the Khandwa district, and being an open water body, rearing of any type of Tilapia species is strictly prohibited in the reservoir.

**Expression of Interest (EoI):** Suitable entrepreneurs will be selected on the basis of EoI to install cages and to create supporting facilities like hatchery, fish seed rearing units, feed mill, cold chain facility, etc. to make the project self-sufficient and sustainable. Successful applicant during the implementation of the project, need to allow for technology demonstration/dissemination free of cost to the members of Fisheries Federation as well as local fish farmers. Accordingly an MoU will be signed by both the parties for leasing of reservoirs to Individual/Agency/Firm/Company for installation of floating Cage Culture Units on Lease-Develop-Operate Basis in the Indirasagar reservoir of Madhya Pradesh.

**Pattern of Financial Assistance:** The project shall be implemented in accordance with the financial norms laid down for various individual components under CSS BR Guidelines (January 2018). Total indicative cost of the 100-Cage Integrated Project is Rs. 785.00 lakh. NFDB will facilitate financial assistance for the project as per norms; rest of the project cost shall be borne by the successful applicant. The training component cost will be borne 100% by NFDB.

**Institutional Arrangement:** NFDB have technical collaboration with ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, Kolkata, West Bengal, for promotion of Inland Cage Culture activities in the country. Applicants would approach ICAR-CIFRI for the identification of suitable sites for Cage Culture activities in Indirasagar Reservoir, for technical support and hands on training at the project site to local fishermen communities/ beneficiaries from villages surrounding the reservoir.



Indira Sagar Dam across river Narmada in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh State



A typical view of Fish Culture Cages installed in a Reservoir

## Action Plan for Training /Skill Development Programmes

Skill India an initiative of the Govt. of India was launched with an aim to train over 40 crore people in different skills by 2022. In the backdrop of changing dynamics of Fisheries Sector, to realize the goals set under Blue Revolution to fully tap the total fisheries potential of the country both in the inland and marine sector and attain a production of 15 MMT by 2020, there is an urgent need for Skill Development. Therefore, NFDB in partnership with respective State/ UT Govt. has drawn up an Action Plan for Training/ Skill Development of stakeholders that include hatchery owners, fingerling producers, fish farmers, fishers, processing workers, retailers, etc., with 100% funding as per cost norms.

The different Training/ Skill Development Programmes sponsored by NFDB are broadly categorized as follows:

- (1) One-day Awareness Programme
- (2) Three-day Skill Development Programme
- (3) Five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme
- (4) 28-day Training Programme
- (5) Need-based Training Programme

- (1) **One-day Awareness Programmes** are non-residential and meant to create awareness or build capacity or inculcate good practices in a specific or critical aspect of fisheries activity among a group of stakeholders (up to 100), viz., (i) Antibiotic Residues in Shrimp, (ii) Hygienic Handling of Fish, (iii) Fabrication of Square Mesh Cod Ends, etc. Budget allocation is up to Rs. 60,000/- per Batch of 25 participants for the one-day programme.
- (2) **Three-Day Skill Development Programmes** are non-residential and meant to upgrade the skill/ build the capacity of stakeholders such that they achieve higher efficiency/production/ productivity/ profit out of the fisheries/ aquaculture activity they are involved in. Batch size is up to 50 stakeholders and Budget allocation is Rs. 1,25,000/- for the 3-day programme.
- (3) **Five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) Programmes** are residential-type and meant to train Fisheries Officials/ Fisheries Teachers/ Professional Fisheries Graduates and Postgraduates/ Established or Experienced Fisheries Entrepreneurs and Aquaculturists in specialized fisheries/aquaculture systems or practices, such that they in turn are capable of training others at the field level for wider dissemination of the knowledge. It is proposed to Train 1125 Trainers (750 State Fisheries Department Officials and 375 Entrepreneurs/ Fish Farmers). The NFDB sponsored ToT Programmes are conducted by Central Fisheries Institutes/ Fisheries Universities or Colleges. Batch size is up to 25 participants and Budget allocation is Rs. 1,50,000/- for the 5-day programme.
- (4) **25-day Training Programmes** are residential-type and meant to train Fisheries Graduates/ Postgraduates/ Diploma Holders/ Qualified Unemployed Youth interested in setting up fisheries/ aquaculture-related enterprise. These 25-day Training Programmes are conducted by Reputed Central and State Fisheries Training Institutes/Fisheries Universities and Colleges/ ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendras and empanelled Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs). Generally, the 25-day Training Programme is based on Qualification Pack and Model Curriculum, developed by Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI), comprising of 200-hour theory and practical sessions. Assessment of Trainees is done at the end of the programme. Batch size is 25 participants and Budget allocation is Rs. 6.00 lakh for the 25-day programme.
- (5) **Need-based Training Programmes** are specialized, meant to give thrust on a specific activity or diversified activity in fisheries and aquaculture, targeting a select group of stakeholders. Examples include:
  - (i) Two-day Training on Seaweed Cultivation for Fisherwomen/SHGs of Tamil Nadu coast, conducted by Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. Per Batch 50 Fisherwomen and Budget allocation is Rs. 85,000/-.
  - (ii) 11-day Capacity Building in Deep Sea Fishing & Onboard Handling of Tuna for Palk Bay Fishers at Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical & Engineering Training (CIFNET), DADF, Govt. of India (CIFNET), Chennai. Per Batch 20 Fishermen and Budget allocation is Rs. 2.82 lakh.
  - (iii) Four-Week/ 28-day (residential) Training on Aqua Clinics and Aquapreneurship Development Programme (AC&ADP), organized by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) through 13 NTIs across 13 States. Per Batch 30 participants and Budget allocation is Rs. 13.05 lakh.



**Action Plan for Training/ Skill Development in  
Fisheries Sector for 2018-19**

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of Programmes	Total No. of Participants
1	Andhra Pradesh	55	2750
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	100
3	Assam	10	500
4	Bihar	15	750
5	Chhattisgarh	8	400
6	Goa	2	100
7	Gujarat	14	700
8	Haryana	4	200
9	Himachal Pradesh	2	100
10	Jammu & Kashmir	4	200
11	Jharkhand	15	750
12	Karnataka	4	200
13	Kerala	8	400
14	Madhya Pradesh	4	200
15	Maharashtra	16	800
16	Manipur	4	200
17	Meghalaya	2	100
18	Mizoram	2	100
19	Nagaland	1	50
20	Odisha	10	500
21	Punjab	10	500
22	Rajasthan	10	500
23	Sikkim	5	250
24	Telangana	16	800
25	Tamil Nadu	16	800
26	Tripura	4	200
27	Uttarakhand	2	100
28	Uttar Pradesh	15	750
29	West Bengal	40	2000
<b>Total</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>15000</b>



NFDB sponsored 1-day Awareness/Capacity Building Programme on Fabrication of Square Mesh Cod Ends, imparted to Marine Fishermen by NETFISH (MPEDA) at Munambam, Kochi, Kerala



NFDB sponsored 25-day Training Programme on Aquaculture Technician at College of Fisheries, CAU, Lembucherra, Tripura



NFDB sponsored 2-day Training Programme on Seaweed Cultivation imparted to Fisherwomen of Tamil Nadu Coast



NFDB sponsored 11-day Capacity Building Programme on 'Deep Sea Fishing & Onboard Handling of Tuna for Palk Bay Fishers' on board M.V. Prashikshani, CIFNET, Chennai

## International Event

### FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) - 33<sup>rd</sup> Session, Rome, Italy

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) constitutes the only global inter-governmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined and recommendations addressed to governments, regional fishery bodies, NGOs, fish workers, FAO and international community, periodically on a world-wide basis.

The thirty-third session of COFI was held at Rome, Italy from 9-13 July 2018. The 5-day session was attended by 114 Members of the Committee, observers from 10 other FAO Member Nations specialized agencies of United Nations, 53 intergovernmental and 30 international non-governmental organizations.

**Delegates from India:** Shri Tarun Sridahr, IAS, Secretary (ADF) and Shri B. Pradhan, IAS, Additional Secretary (FA), Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Govt. of India, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, and Shri T.S. Vishwanatha, Senior Executive (Technical), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad

Mr Willam Gibsons Fly, Chairperson welcomed the participants, while Mr Jose Graziano da Silva, Director General of FAO, inaugurated the session and delivered a statement.

**State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA 2018)**, an FAO publication, constitutes a global reference for development status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture that is supported by data, statistics and information and a tool for achieving Sustainable Development Goals, especially under SDG 14. *India's intervention* on this agenda point included the following points:

- (1) Importance of data in decision support cannot be undermined and therefore FAO shall focus on wider dissemination of the SOFIA report.
- (2) FAO, as custodian of 'SDG 14: Life Below Water', may report region wise progress on SDG 14 in a consolidated manner in SOFIA as a ready reckoner for policy makers and advocacy groups.
- (3) SOFIA may cover comprehensive report on workers in fisheries sector, including aspects such as occupational safety and health.

**Implementation of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and Related Instruments:** Members identified gaps and constraints such as limited financial and human resources, technical and regulatory capacity, need for improved institutional framework and reducing postharvest losses. *India intervened and said that* report on implementation of CCRF shows that the fraction of marine fish stocks fished within biologically sustainable levels has continued to decline which is alarming and therefore effectiveness of measures taken remains an area of concern and requires validation and introspection by members.

**Decisions and recommendations of the Sixteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Busan, Republic of Korea, 4-8 September 2017:** *India's comments:* Reading through the report of

the Sub-Committee, it is evident that while there is an across the board support for using trade measures to ensure sustainability of fisheries, there is also growing concern and dissatisfaction over the role of the third party agencies and organisations in controlling free trade between the countries. Prima facie it seems that increasing integration of trade with fisheries management is hurting the developing and least developed countries more. The share of developing countries in export value which increased to an historical high (52.60%) in 2012 has declined by 2015 (to 51.69% in 2015).

There is a need to appreciate that developing countries are not a fully-integrated market economy and they are rather making a transition. The value chains and supply mechanisms are organic, often based on traditional relationships, which tends to be sticky and averse to change. That is in spite of the best effort of the Governments, the value chains will take time to adjust to the emerging market requirements. A hard push in this context can alienate marginal/less empowered participants in the value chain. Therefore, it is heartening to see that social sustainability issues have been given importance by the Sub-Committee in its latest Session in Busan, Korea.

The role of FAO as an unbiased and scientifically competent global agency is very much important in this aspect. FAO in coordination with regional fisheries and environmental bodies should look at a socially and economically desirable transformation strategy for the developing and least developed countries to rise to use trade as a measure of fisheries sustainability. It is unlikely that there will be 'one shoe that fits all solution' and a regional approach is needed. In the meantime, creating necessary buffers for developing and least developed countries is extremely important.

**Decisions and recommendations of the Ninth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Rome, 24-27 October 2017:** *India highlighted* the importance of fisheries and aquaculture for food security, nutrition, improved livelihoods and income generation as large number of people depend on fisheries and aquaculture activities in India. Therefore, FAO should focus more on aquaculture and especially support small-scale fisheries in developing countries.

**Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries Governance and Global & Regional Ocean Processes:** *India highlighted* the importance of supporting small-scale fisheries for the food security, nutrition, supporting livelihoods, income generation for millions who depend on small-scale fisheries. FAO was called to note the problems in sector such as tenure rights, access of fishers to resources, complex nature of the sector with respect to social and cultural aspects. India appreciated efforts of FAO on implementation of VGSFF and expressed commitment to implement the guidelines.

**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** Importance of achieving the SDGs especially SDG 14, besides coherence of these goals with policy goals of binding and non-binding international instruments, regional bodies and national authorities were highlighted. *India put forth the following points:* India is committed to implement international arrangements and instruments for sustainable use of fisheries resources. Efforts of Government of India with regards to achieving SDGs were highlighted. FAO was called for providing more support to developing countries with respect to capacity development for reporting on SDGs.



FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) 33<sup>rd</sup> Session, 9-13 July 2018, Rome, Italy: ( left to right) Shri Tarun Sridahr, IAS, Secretary (ADF) and Shri T.S. Vishwanatha, Senior Executive (Technical), NFDB; Shri B. Pradhan, IAS, Additional Secretary (FA); and Representatives of Member Countries

**Climate Change and Environment related matters:** Committee commended effort of FAO in the area of climate change in fisheries and aquaculture and comprehensive review on impacts of climate change and adaptation options. *India is committed* to Paris climate agreement to ensure food security for our growing population and at the same time take people out of poverty. However these goals are not complementary to each other in short run. It was highlighted that there is need for strong global support to combat impacts of climate change. FAO needs to strengthen data on energy efficiency of fisheries and aquaculture vis-à-vis other sectors.

**FAO's Programme of Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture under the strategic framework:** Results achieved in 2016-2017 were appreciated. *India suggested* FAO to maintain a strong presence and visibility at field level with concrete activities and focus on dissemination of technologies. FAO should focus on activities related freshwater aquaculture and small-scale fisheries especially in developing countries. It was also suggested that FAO should bring synergy amongst regional bodies and avoid duplication of work at different levels.

**Other Matters:** Items 14.2(a) Report from the Republic of Korea on the progress of the pilot programme for *World Fisheries University* and 14.2(b) for establishment of a *new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management* were taken up for discussion. India and many other members supported Norway's proposal for establishment of a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.

**Date of Next COFI Session:** The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of COFI will be held in Rome in the third quarter of 2020.

**Discussion:** On the last day (13th July) the Draft Report of 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of COFI was discussed paragraph by paragraph. Members discussed the deviations and aberrations in the Report. The Final Report will be notified in due course.

**National Fisheries Development Board**, Fish Building, Pillar No. 235, P.V. Narsimha Rao Expressway, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVP NPA) Post, HYDERABAD - 500 052. Ph: 040-24000201; Fax: 040-24015568, 24015552, Toll Free Number: 1800-425-1660 E-mail: [info.nfdb@nic.in](mailto:info.nfdb@nic.in); Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nfdbindia](https://www.facebook.com/nfdbindia); Website: [nfdb.gov.in](http://nfdb.gov.in)

