

समुद्री उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण

(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

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PRESS RELEASE

MPEDA opens ELISA Lab at Bapatla, Guntur District.

The farmed shrimps meant for export to EU are subject to Pre Harvest Testing (PHT) in the ELISA Laboratories set up by MPEDA. The raw material is screened for the presence of banned antibiotic residues such as Nitrofurans and Chloramphenicol. MPEDA has set up 13 ELISA Laboratories for this Pre Harvest Testing certification programme in the farming clusters of coastal states right from Gujarat to West Bengal.

Responding to the demands from the aqua farmers of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh, MPEDA has opened its 14th ELISA Laboratory at Bapatla today, 30th July 2021. The laboratory is expected to cater to the antibiotic testing needs of aqua farmers in Guntur district and the villages of Prakasam and Krishna districts that boarder the Guntur district.

The lab was formally inaugurated by Shri P. Koteswara Rao, Additional Director, Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh & Principal of State Institute of Fisheries Technology (SIFT), Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, in presence of Shri K.S. Srinivas IAS, Chairman, MPEDA, who presided over the virtual function organized from MPEDA Head Quarters in Kochi. The function was attended by Dr. M. Karthikeyan, Director, MPEDA, Shri K.S. Pradeep IFS, Secretary, MPEDA, Dr. Ram Mohan M.K., Joint Director (QC), MPEDA, Shri A.Jeyabal, Joint Director, MPEDA Regional Division, Vijayawada, Shri Mahesh, Deputy Director (Lab), **Shri IPR Mohan Raju, President, Prawn Farmers Federation of India, Shri Ch.Sudheer,**

Vice President, Seafood Exporters Association of India, Andhra Pradesh Region, farmers, exporters, and MPEDA officials.

Shri Koteswara Rao appreciated the initiative taken by the Chairman to open an ELISA lab at Bapatla in his inaugural address, and told that this will help the exporters to check the quality of shrimps grown by farmers thereby reducing the antibiotic rejections instances. Felicitations were offered by Shri IPR Mohanraju, President, Prawn Farmers Federation of India, Shri K. S. Pradeep, Secretary, MPEDA and **Shri Ch.Sudheer**, Vice President, Seafood Exporters Association of India, Andhra Pradesh Region.

Chairman, MPEDA reiterated that the farmers shall restrain from using any banned antibiotics in the shrimp culture system. He also emphasized the need to contain the detection of antibiotic residues in farmed shrimp consignments in markets such as EU, USA and Japan for enhancing our market share. He stressed that Indian seafood can take up a larger market share, if the quality is ensured. He urged the farmers to utilize the laboratory services at its maximum so that they will get a better sales value by ensuring the quality and traceability of the produce. Chairman, MPEDA also reminded the farmers and other stakeholders to remain vigilant about Covid -19 infections and requested them to follow the prescribed protocols to prevent the pathogen and nucleic material contaminating the value chain citing the recent spate of rejections by China alleging detection of Covid- 19 nucleic material in seafood consignments exported from India. He also urged the farmers and exporters to utilize e-Santa online platform to do direct business eliminating middlemen.

Earlier, Dr. Karthikeyan, Director, MPEDA welcomed the participants and Shri Mahesh introduced the process of online PHT system to the farmers and other participants. Shri A. Jeyabal, Joint Director, proposed the vote of thanks.

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