Contents

Aquaculture Scene
Vijayawada hosted the largest Aquaculture – Aquariculture Show of the Region ................................................................. 5

Record survival and growth of Seabass in Kerala cage farm ...................... 26

Handbooks on Aquafarming / Freshwater Ornamental Fishes broughtout by MPEDA .............................................................. 27

Focus Area
International Workshop-Seminar on Mud Crab Aquaculture and Fisheries Management at Sirkali from 10-12 April 2012 ......................... 30

News Spectrum .............................................................................. 31
Screening test menu includes:

- Sulphaquinoxaline
- Sulphadiazine
- Sulphamethazine
- Sulphamethoxazole
- Chloramphenicol
- Beta-Lactams
- Quinolones
- Flumequine
- Nitrofurans (AOZ, AMOZ, AHD SEM)
- Streptomycin
- Tetracycline*
- Stilbene
- Zeranol

*To be released in 2011

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  - Leucomalachite Green – detects malachite green and leucocrystal violet
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Dear friends,

We are back from a fantastic Aqua Aquaria India 2013 that kept the city of Vijayawada in limelight for over a week. Virtually, all the roads in Andhra were leading to this town and the Andhra Loyola College grounds on the event days and the show will be remembered for the record participation of stakeholders, especially aquaculture farmers who were benefited by the technical sessions and new technologies and products showcased. The feedback from different quarters are very encouraging and we are grateful to all who had participated.

On this occasion, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. D Purandeswari, Hon’ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India, Shri K Parthasarathi, Hon’ble Minister for Secondary Education, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Manmohan Singh IAS, Principal Secretary for Fisheries, AH & Dairying, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and various other eminent dignitaries, scientists, speakers, buyers and other delegates for associating with the largest show in Asia on aquaculture. I also congratulate the farmers, societies, hatcheries and ornamental fish breeders who received MPEDA awards.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge the contribution of my friend and predecessor in MPEDA, Mr. G Mohan Kumar IAS, Special Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources and our friend, philosopher and guide, Dr. E G Silas, Former Vice Chancellor of Kerala Agriculture University, both of whom had handled a major part of the technical sessions.

As the echo of accolades settles down, MPEDA is overboard with preparations for the forthcoming International Boston Seafood Show in March 2013 and the European Seafood Exposition in April 2013, to showcase Indian seafood in all its grandeur.

While it is too early to say about the positivity or negativity of exports for the year, certain facts are disturbing. The recent escalation of freight charges coupled with the sluggish trade can very well hamper the expectations of the industry and MPEDA.

Thank you.

February 2013
Kochi-36

Leena Nair IAS
Chairman
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Thailand.
Shrimp culture contributes largely to the marine products export earnings of India that touched a record value of US$ 3508 million during 2011-12. Considering the importance of aquafarming sector, especially shrimp farming, MPEDA had been organizing exhibition and technical seminars on every alternate year for the benefit of aquaculture community in India. Later on, shows for the ornamental fish culture sector, which is rapidly growing as a livelihood area and export item, were also initiated. The idea of a common event for both the sectors was launched and implemented with the first AQUA AQUARIA INDIA held during 6-8 February 2011 at Chennai. When it came to the second edition, the state of Andhra Pradesh and the city of Vijayawada emerged as a popular venue being the headquarters of the shrimp farming activity. The Andhra Loyola College campus was selected as the venue because of the area that can encompass all the activities related to the event such as Exhibition, technical sessions, demos etc.

The Event

The second edition of AQUA AQUARIA INDIA - the largest aquaculture and aquarium show in Asian region – was organized by MPEDA from 8-10, February 2013 in the Andhra Loyola College Campus in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The 3-day event comprised technical sessions conducted by national and international experts on aquaculture and ornamental fish culture, exhibition by farming community, hatcheries, etc.
various manufacturers / suppliers of aquaculture and ornamental fish culture equipments, aquaculture technology providers, cold chain and storage systems, fishing equipments, safety devices, aquarium, feed and feed ingredients / additives, financial and insurance services, logistics and transport, pharmaceuticals, pest control systems, waste management plants, energy efficient systems, besides, Government departments, cooperatives and associations. Over 155 air conditioned stalls were set up in the 3600 sq. m. German hanger structure, earmarking 101 for aquaculture sector and 54 for ornamental fish sector. 125 exhibitors participated including those from USA, UK, Thailand, Malaysia, China etc. Around 5000 delegates including aquaculture farmers / ornamental fish breeders / feed manufacturers, hatchery owners, machinery suppliers, exporters / importers, officials from fisheries institutions and State / Central Govt. Departments, researchers, students and aquarium hobbyists in India / abroad participated. Over 4500 visitors and students also witnessed the exhibition.

The major sponsors for the AAI-2013 were the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, National Fisheries Development Board, Seafood Exporters Association of India, M/s. Avanti Feeds, M/s. BMR Exports, State Bank of Travancore, SEALAB, State Bank of Hyderabad, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and M/s. Ananda Exports. The scribbling pads and pens were sponsored by M/s. Nellore Hatcheries while the lanyards were sponsored by M/s Wenger, USA.

Inauguration

Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari, Hon’ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Government of India has inaugurated the event on 8th February 2013 at 11 AM by lighting the traditional lamp (kuthuvilakku). The august gathering was welcomed by Ms. Leena Nair IAS, Chairman, MPEDA. The eminent personalities who offered felicitations were Mr. K Parthasarathi, Hon'ble Minister for Secondary Education and Govt. Examinations, Andhra Pradesh, Mr. A Krishna Mohan, MLA, Chirala, Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Manmohan Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary, AH, DD & Fisheries Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Dr. E G Silas, former Vice Chancellor of Kerala Agriculture University.

Inaugurating the three-day event, Dr. Purandeswari said that Fisheries Sector that contributed 5% of India's agricultural GDP, generating employment for 40 million people,
needed priority support. The marine fisheries had reached a stagnation phase and the alternative is to promote culture fisheries. The sector that contributed 1.5% of the GDP needed support from the MPEDA in extension work, she said. The MPEDA being primarily an export promotion agency should develop sustainable technologies for aquaculture and disseminate the same to the State Fisheries Departments for taking up the extension work, she said. “Only then export earnings can be enhanced with improved returns to the farmers,” the Minister added. She also said that India is a major supplier of shrimp to Japan, Europe, USA and still has an untapped potential. The country has 3.9 million tones of marine resource potential and 4.5 million tones of inland resource potential. India is only second to China in aquaculture production. The need of the hour is to bring about growth in industry on par with international standards.

Referring to the Ornamental Fish Sector, Dr. Purandeswari said ornamental fish culture is fast emerging as a major branch of aquaculture. The Western Ghats are a gold mine of tropical ornamental fishes and it is one of the 25 hot spot areas of the world, she added.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Ms. Leena Nair IAS, Chairman, MPEDA said that against 35,000 brackish water farms in the state, 10,000 farms are present in Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh. Krishna District stands first in brackish water aqua farms while East Godavari and West Godavari Districts stand in the 2nd and 3rd place respectively in the State. Chairman, MPEDA has also said that export through aquaculture production increased significantly during 2011-12 and touched 2, 16,500 MT, marking 58% increase in exports than previous year. The shrimp and scampi production during 2012-13 upto December 2012 reached 245, 000 MT against the target of 261, 000 MT during the financial year. The L. vannamei production reached 123, 000 MT in 10 months marking 53% increase than last year.

Ms. Leena Nair said a brood stock multiplication centre for L. vannamei was set up at Visakhapatnam by Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), the R&D wing of MPEDA, to cater to the needs of L. vannamei hatchery operators and farmers. Of the 807 societies of aqua farmers in the country, 600 societies are present in Andhra Pradesh.
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Mr. K. Parthasarathi, Minister for Secondary Education, Govt. Examinations, delivering felicitation address

Dr. E G Silas, Former Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agriculture University and Director, CMFRI (Retd.) offering felicitations

Dr. Manmohan Singh IAS, Principal Secretary, AH & DD and Fisheries, Govt of Andhra Pradesh during felicitation address

Dr. D Purandeswari, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry releasing ‘Handbooks on Aquaculture’

Mr. N Ramesh, Director (M), MPEDA proposing vote of thanks

Release of AQUA AQUARIA INDIA 2013 Souvenir by Dr. D Purandeswari, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry

Release of Handbooks on Ornamental Fish “Living Jewels” by Dr. D Purandeswari, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry

Release of “Handbooks on Aquaculture” by Dr. D Purandeswari, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry
Presentation of MPEDA awards
### List of awardees

1. Mr. Narendra Jaggubhai Tandel, husband of Ms. Kalpanaben N. Tandel, receiving Best Tiger Shrimp Farmer Award
2. Mr. Gadiraju Rama krishnam Raju receiving the Second Best Tiger Shrimp Farmer Award
3. Mr. Sandi Chakraborty of M/s. Ashadeep Aquaculture Pvt Ltd, Balasore, receiving the Best L. vannamei Farmer Award
4. Mr. Saji Chacko of M/s. Onaway Industries Ltd, Navsari Dt of Gujarat, receiving the Best L. vannamei Corporate Farmer Award
5. Mr. Chellappa, President of M/s. Lagoon Aqua Farmers Welfare Society, Jambuvanodai, Tiruvurkur District, Tamil Nadu receiving the Best Shrimp Farming Society Award
6. Mr. C K Sudhakaran, Pullut, Thirissur District, Kerala receiving the Second Best Scallop Farmer Award
7. Mr.K S Gowda of M/s. Sharavati Sigadi Krashikara Sanga, Haldipur, Honavar, Karnataka receiving the Second best Shrimp Farming Society Award
8. Mr. J Sivagnananam of Kattur Village, Thiruvallur Dt of Tamil Nadu receiving the Best Scampi Farmer Award
9. Mr. J Senthil Kumar of Vedaranyam, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu receiving the Best Brackishwater Finfish Farmer (Encouragement) Award
10. Mr. V F Barnabas of Anapuzha, Kerala receiving the Second Best Brackishwater Finfish Farmer (Encouragement) Award
11. Mr. C Venkataraman of M/s. Sona Shrimp Hatcheries, of Chettinangner, Tindivanam taluk of Tamil Nadu receiving the Best Tiger Shrimp Hatchery Award
12. Mr. Sudhakar of M/s. Alpha Hatcheries, Koraturu, Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh receiving the Best Shrimp Farmers from Shrimp Farming Society Award
13. Mr. Ravi Kumar Yellanki, of M/s. Vaishki Bio-resources (P) Ltd, receiving the Second Best L. vannamei hatchery Award
14. Mr. V Venkateswara Rao of M/s. Thirumala Venkateswara Aqua Farmers Welfare Society, Nizampatnam, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, receiving Best Farmers from Shrimp Farming Society Award
15. Mr. Pamidi Subbanaidu, of Sri Vigneswara Aqua Farmers Welfare Society, Tanguturu, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh receiving Second Best Farmer from Shrimp Farming Society Award
16. Mr. Dintakurthi Madhusudhana Rao, of Lakshimpuram, Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh, receiving Best Organic Shrimp Farmer Award
17. Mr. George Alexander of Vattakkattussery, Valamangalam, Alappuzha District, Kerala receiving the second Organic Shrimp Farmer Award
18. Mr. Sudip Deb Nath, of M/s. Prayag Infotech Hi-Rise Ltd, Naihati, West Bengal, receiving Best Ornamental Fish Farm(Large Scale) Award
19. Mr. G Saravanan, of M/s. Sidha Aqua, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, receiving the Second Best Ornamental Fish Farm (Large Scale) Award
20. Mr. Hasan Mhaslai of Hans Aqua, Maangaon, Raigad District, Maharashtra receiving the Second Best Ornamental Fish Farm (Large Scale) Award
21. Mr. Alex George of M/s. Aquapets International, Panachikal, Kozhikode, Kerala receiving the Best Ornamental Fish Farm (Medium Scale) Award

Ms. Nair recalled that South-east Asia became the largest buyer of Indian marine products with 22.94%, European Union got into second place with 22.37% followed by the USA with 21.95%, Japan 11.8%, China 7.38% and Middle East 5.48%.

Calling attention to the ornamental fish sector, Chairman, MPEDA said during 2011-12, India exported ornamental fish worth Rs. 5.8 Crore and during April-November 2012, Rs.3.7 crore worth ornamental fish were exported. The ornamental fish production is being taken up in non-coastal states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana etc. She said that there is a good demand for ornamental fish in domestic market too with increasing passion towards aquarium keeping.

Dr. Purandeswari, Hon'ble Minister had later released the Souvenir of AAI 2013, four new books on aquaculture and a book on ornamental fish culture brought out on the occasion. A CD on ‘BMPs in Aquaculture’ brought out by National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA), a society under MPEDA and book on ‘Fisheries Development in India’ published by Fishing Chimes magazine was also released on the occasion by the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. N Ramesh, Director (Marketing), MPEDA proposed vote of thanks. Mr. P Mohanasundaram, Director was also present on the occasion.

### Presentation of MPEDA awards

Dr. D Purandeswari, Hon'ble Minister has also presented the MPEDA awards for aqua farmers, societies, hatcheries and ornamental fish farms. The detailed list of awardees and categories are given separately.

### Technical sessions

The technical sessions on aquaculture and ornamental fish culture were organized separately in the Father Devaiah Auditorium and Indoor Stadium on 8th and 9th February 2013. The invited speakers were from countries such as UK, Italy, USA, Malaysia, Belgium, Thailand, Germany, Indonesia, Norway, Sri Lanka, Portugal, Australia, Singapore and Zambia besides those from India. The detail of the sessions are given separately in this issue of Newsletter.

### Buyer-seller meet

A Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) for the ornamental fish exporters and rearing units was organized on 10th February 2013 in conjunction with Aqua Aquaria...
AQUACULTURE SCENE

Inauguration of Exhibition

Hon’ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry in RGCA Theme Pavilion

Mr. G Mohan Kumar IAS, Special Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources visiting the exhibition stalls and RGCA Theme Pavilion

View of the Exhibition
India 2013 at the Indoor stadium of Loyola College. There were separate Buyer Seller Meets for international and domestic buyers and was attended by 3 International and 6 Indian buyers respectively. International Buyers were M/s. S V Aquarium LLC, Dubai, M/s. Aquarium Lives Centre LLC, Abdudhabi and M/s. MAE Aquatics Pte Ltd, Singapore.

The international BSM was attended by 19 Indian sellers. There were 6 sellers from Tamil Nadu, 5 from Maharashtra, 4 from West Bengal, 3 from Kerala and one from Andhra Pradesh.

The domestic buyers were M/s. Ocean Enterprises, Madhya Pradesh, M/s. Trident International, Mumbai, M/s. Arpitha Infracon Pvt Ltd, Secunderabad, M/s. Utekar Fisheries, Mumbai, M/s. Gagan Aquarias, Himachal Pradesh, M/s. Blue Gold Fish Farm, Himachal Pradesh and M/s. J K Aquatic Zone, Karnataka. There were 13 domestic sellers of Ornamental Fish, 3 each from Kerala and Maharashtra, 2 each from Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh and one from Tamil Nadu.

There were sellers who got initial order upto Rs. 200,000 per month, which is very promising. The BSM was well appreciated and the participants expect that it will pave way for more fruitful and new business relationships.

**Press Conference by Chairman**

Chairman, MPEDA has conducted a Press Conference on 7th February 2013 in Taj Gateway Hotel, Vijayawada announcing the Show and also to highlight the initiatives taken by MPEDA in augmenting export oriented aquaculture production and marine products exports. Chairman, MPEDA said that pre-harvest test for the presence of antibiotics in farmed shrimps was mandatory for exports and the MPEDA established chain of ELISA laboratories in all the coastal farming areas.

B Sreekumar, Secretary, N Ramesh Director (M) and P Mohanasundaram, Director, MPEDA were also present on the occasion. They said that 70% of the shrimp production of the country was from farms in Andhra Pradesh. In the last financial year 1.5 lakh tonnes of shrimp were cultivated in the country. This year (till December end), two lakh tonnes of shrimp has been cultivated and the share of Andhra shrimp farms was 1.6 lakh tonnes, they said.

Mr. Ramesh, giving more figures, said the foreign exchange of the country earned from shrimp export last financial year was dollars 3.5 billion (the earnings after conversion into rupees was Rs 16,000 crore).

This year the productivity was higher, but the earnings were lower because of a fall in dollar realisation.

Mr. Mohanasundaram said India was on par with rival countries Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, but the shrimp produced in India were larger in size (16 to 20 count) and fetched more foreign exchange.
Glimpses of the event

Chairman interacts with school children

Mr. A D M Chavali, Executive Director, IOB in discussion with Chairman & Director (M)
Glimpses of the event
Glimpses of the event
Aquaculture Sessions

Aquaculture technical sessions had four sessions viz., Aquaculture Production Technology; Shrimp Health management and Bio-security requirements; Certification, Food Security and Marketing issues for Aquaculture and Diversification - Candidate species. The details of the various technical presentations made by the experts during the sessions are as follows:

Day 1:
Session 1: Aquaculture Production Technology:

This session had 6 presentations focused on some frontier technologies that could help aquaculture sector to expand and diversify for further advancements. The session was chaired by Dr. E G Silas,

The first presentation was by Mr. Prakash Kumar, CEO, Air Hydroponic Technology Ltd, East Yorkshire, England and also its subsidiary M/s. AquaFuture Ltd, UK. The presentation dwelt on a simple, cost effective, easily adaptable and environment friendly technology for aquaculture by applying the expertise of highly advanced Hydroponic industry. In his presentation, Mr. Kumar explained the essential components of the technology, particularly the design of the energy efficient building for indoor aquaculture and horticulture, the advantages of photo-bioreactor building housing indoor aquaculture and having a part of the roof area for algae runway ponds, how the system is energy efficient and cost effective etc. He also explained how the system has a built in natural, cost effective and
sustainable waste management and how it is advantageous and profitable to have a photo-bioreactor building next to a very large scale open pond aquaculture farm.

The second presentation was on cage aquaculture and its business options by Dr. Alessandro Lovatelli. Dr. Alessandro Lovatelli, is an Aquaculture Officer of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Rome, Italy and his area of activities is marine/offshore aquaculture development and transfer of farming technologies and resource management. He has coordinated and co-authored several FAO technical reviews and papers mainly focused on marine aquaculture development. In his presentation Dr. Alessandro covered the whole gamut of issues related to moving aquaculture to marine offshore environments. The increasing populations, finding alternative sources for supplying fish to the increasing millions, mariculture, farming the seas, using cage aquaculture technology as a means for bridging the gap between demand and supply, it’s challenges, present status of mariculture as an indicator of its future potential in this regard, the technological options, the species options, the social factors, feed impacts, and the need for a conducive policy environment etc were discussed.

Dr. Addison Lawrence is a world renowned faculty from the Texas A&M University. He is currently working as Regents Fellow, Faculty Fellow, Senior Faculty Fellow, Scientist in Charge, and Project Leader with the Texas AgriLife Research Mariculture Laboratory at Port Aransas, Texas A&M System and his area of specialization is stacked raceway systems for intensive aquaculture. Dr. Addison Lawrence gave a presentation on Stacked Raceway Super Intensive Shrimp Production. In his presentation, he has explained the need for intensification of aquaculture and shrimp culture in particular for production of high quality protein food against the increasing global demand. Production predictability, complete biosecurity, high production levels and optimization of production systems and feeds are the future trends for shrimp production and how the stacked race-way system is suited for achieving all these objectives. Achieving production levels of up to 300 MT/ha/Year and minimum weekly growth rates of up to 2 gm and production of 30 gm size shrimp etc. are achievable in the stacked raceway systems. Use of stacked raceway systems for nursery phase, the flexibility and advantages of the system and its cost effectiveness were discussed.

Reduced dependence on Artemia and fresh feed in (L. vannamei) shrimp hatcheries/brood stock was the topic of the presentation by Dr. Patrick Lavens, Innovations Director of INVE Aquaculture, a division that takes care of R&D and product development, and combines this function now with New Business technology in different parts of the world. In his presentation, he explained the definition and application of Biofloc in shrimp farming. The various aspects of farm design and construction for sustainable production including biosecure module operations for control of White Spot virus, basic paddle wheel aerator positioning for Biofloc technology etc. was described. Sampling of biofloc, application of technology in various parts of the world including Belize, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Brazil, utilization of the technology for Tiger Shrimp, shrimp brood stock, nursery, raceways etc. were also discussed. He also explained the pitfalls of the technology as well as its economics. Benefits of Bioflocs in increasing the growth rate in shrimp by 10-50 % in comparison to the culture using conventional feeds alone, its role in enhancing shrimp immunity, possibility of heterotrophic bacteria of biofloc controlling viral diseases, using biofloc technology as tool for removal of nutrients from water bodies and production of microbial biomass as an in situ source of feed for cultured species were also explained during the presentation.

This presentation was followed by a presentation on the Application of Biofloc Technology in Aquaculture by Dr. Nyan Taw, Senior Advisor, New Operations Developments, Blue Archipelago Berhod, Malaysia. Dr. Nyan Taw is one of the pioneers in Biofloc Technology having practical experience in application of biofloc in different parts of the world. In his presentation, he explained the definition and application of Biofloc in shrimp farming. The various aspects of farm design and construction for sustainable production including biosecure module operations for control of White Spot virus, basic paddle wheel aerator positioning for Biofloc technology etc. was described. Sampling of biofloc, application of technology in various parts of the world including Belize, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Brazil, utilization of the technology for Tiger Shrimp, shrimp brood stock, nursery, raceways etc. were also discussed. He also explained the pitfalls of the technology as well as its economics. Benefits of Bioflocs in increasing the growth rate in shrimp by 10-50 % in comparison to the culture using conventional feeds alone, its role in enhancing shrimp immunity, possibility of heterotrophic bacteria of biofloc controlling viral diseases, using biofloc technology as tool for removal of nutrients from water bodies and production of microbial biomass as an in situ source of feed for cultured species were also explained during the presentation.
Development, INVE Technologies N.V., Belgium. He was also a Guest Professor in aquaculture at the University of Ghent, Belgium, Laboratory of Aquaculture & Artemia Reference Centre where he coordinated the research activities, (including international projects), on live feeds, fish & shrimp hatchery nutrition and brood stock nutrition. In his presentation he dwelt on the results of the trials made by partial and complete replace of *Artemia* with formulated feeds in *L. vannamei* hatcheries. In the second part of his presentation, Dr. Lavens has explained the results obtained in replacement of fresh feeds with formulated feeds in brood stock nutrition. The conclusion of the presentation was that the results of the studies and trials indicate that a best balance of *Artemia* replacement in larval diets and fresh food replacement in brooder diet and microbial management has to be achieved for best results in hatchery operations and grow out culture of shrimp.

The last presentation of the day and the session 1 was by Mr. Joseph Kearns, Aquaculture Process Engineering Manager, Wenger Manufacturing Inc., Kansas, USA. In his presentation, Mr. Kearns explained the process of extrusion cooking in manufacture of aquaculture feeds, importance of the various stages of extrusion cooking technology, various types of implements and components of the extrusion machinery, benefits of steam injection etc. The presentation on the whole explained that the extrusion cooking is a very flexible process that can produce a wide range of food, feed and industrial products using the proper raw material, hardware and processing techniques.

Following each of the above presentation, there was a brief translation of presentations for the benefit of farmers who had no knowledge of English. The question answer session which followed this helped the delegates to clear their doubts.

**Day 2:**

**Session 2: “Shrimp health management and biosecurity requirements.”**

The second session of the Aquaculture Technical sessions was chaired by Mr. G Mohan Kumar, IAS, Special Secretary, Water resources, Government of India, New Delhi, who is also the Ex-Chairman of MPEDA. The Chairman initiated the proceedings of the session by briefing about the theme of the session and inviting the speakers to present their papers. The first presentation of the session was by Dr. C V Mohan, of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-pacific (NACA), Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Mohan is the Research and Development Program Manager of NACA. The title of the presentation was Emerging Shrimp Diseases in Asia Pacific and Precautionary measures needed. Concept of disease emergence and spread, defining and dealing with disease emergencies, top threats to shrimp farming in Asia pacific, EMS/AHPNS status and present knowledge, Lessons learnt in dealing with disease emergencies in Asia Pacific and to take home message formed the contents of Dr Mohan’s presentation. Questions like why do new diseases emerge? What is an emergency? What is AA emergency? What should happen in the face of an emergency? How to decide the nature of response? What are the phases of an emergency response? etc. were answered in the presentation. Threats to shrimp farming in Andhra Pradesh, particularly for the *L. vannamei* farming was explained in details. The potential risk factors associated with intensification of farming and the different stress factors were explained and the generic management options suggested and discussed. Other diseases such as Infectious Myo Necrosis Virus (IMNV), Monodon Slow Growth Syndrome (MSGS), Hepatopancreatic parasites were also explained. The lessons learnt and their implications on different facets of the shrimp industry and finally the take home message emphasizing the dangers of translocation of brood stock or PLs, need to understand the true meaning of SPF, the potentially high risk of stocking pond with PL from pond reared *L. vannamei* brood
stock, and the need for having an effective national Aquatic Animal Health Management strategies were stressed upon. A national legislation and policy to deal with AAH emergencies, having a national surveillance and disease reporting program and national contingency plans to deal with AAH emergencies and the shared responsibility among farmers, hatcheries and public/private institutions were suggested as the need of the hour.

The second presentation of the session was by Dr. Patrick Lavens of INVE Aquaculture, Belgium on the topic “Can (specific) microbial management improve disease control and overall performance in aquaculture production?” His presentation threw light on the role of microbes in the biological world and the mechanisms of microbial management. The mechanisms of microbial management included direct action microbial populations, indirect action via environmental bio-remediation and affecting health status and performance of species culture. That the effective tools in microbial management are effective probiotics and what parameters determine the effectiveness of the probiotics was also discussed. The presentation gave the results of trials of different products in aquaculture and concluded that probiotics and selective natural antimicrobials can very likely help in microbial management for improving disease control & overall performance in aquaculture.

The third and final presentation of the session was on “Balancing the basic pond management and biosecurity set up to reduce loss in shrimp farm” by Mr. Mongkohn Primphoon, Assistant Technical Manager Asia-Pacific, Novozymes Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Malaysia. The focus of the presentation was common problems in aquaculture pond management, their prevention and providing a management guideline based on case studies. He highlighted the effect of temperature and dissolved oxygen on shrimp.

The session was concluded with the summing up by the Chairman of the session and thanking the speakers and the delegates for their active participation in the discussions.

Session 3: Certification, Food Security and Marketing issues for Aquaculture.

This session was also chaired by Mr. G Mohan Kumar IAS. The chairman began the proceedings of the session by briefing on the theme of the session and invited the first speaker, Dr. Ken Corpron of Global Aquaculture Alliance, USA. Dr. Ken Corpron, is the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordinator for the Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) program of Global Aquaculture Alliance. Dr. Corpron began his presentation by giving the definition of the word Certification and explaining the importance of certification in the marketing of seafood. After describing the Best Aquaculture Certification Process of Global Aquaculture, Dr. Corpron touched upon the differences in the basic certifications, Aquaculture Eco-labels, Certifications with specific focus and the overlap in certifications. He emphasized that BAP is the only certification scheme offering full production chain coverage among all certification schemes. He also explained about the BAP Star systems and listed the processing plants, hatcheries and farms in India which have obtained BAP certification. He acknowledged the problem of small farmers and mentioned the programme being taken with MPEDA-NaCSA for Group Certification of Society farms in India.

Dr. Udo Censkowsky, Director of Research, biodiversity products, sustainable food sector of M/s. Organic Services GmbH, Germany presented the next paper entitled “Organic seafood in Europe : markets and regulations”. In his presentation Dr. Udo gave a summary on the status of global demand and production of organic products as a whole and organic aquaculture production in specific before giving the details of the regulatory systems for organic products. In this he dwelt on the definition and principles of organic aquaculture, regulatory system in Europe and list of countries, product categories, inspection bodies and control authorities. Though India features in the Third country list, it is not for aquaculture products. As a market for organic aquaculture
products, EU 27 being the largest seafood importer worldwide also feature as the largest importer of organic seafood. Salmon and shrimp are commercially the most important species, though the other species include trouts, seabass / seabream, carp, pangasius, tilapia and blue mussels. The average price premium for organic products is between 20% to 40% on retail prices. After giving a range of various organic products in European markets he concluded his presentation with a slide on the perspectives for organic aquaculture in India and commended its potential for increasing the organic production particularly from the extensive production systems and cluster farms.

The last presentation of the session was by Mr. S Santhanakrishnan, Chief Executive of Marine Technologies Ltd, Chennai, India who gave a presentation on Food Safety through Certification program in Shrimp aquaculture. In his presentation Mr. Santhanakrishnan dwelt on the need of certification for shrimp culture, the principles and codes of practice covering the food safety aspects of farmed shrimp. After dealing with the food safety issues he explained how the certification programmes include the food safety protocols and then described the different types of certification programmes. The different types of certification programmes included Routine ones, Buyer specific ones, Market specific ones, Special value added programmes, and the implementation of HACCP in shrimp aquaculture. Finally an update on food safety regulation of USFDA insisting every farm from where shrimp is produced should also be HACCP certified, approved etc. After raising the question on whether it is possible for small scale farmers, he concluded that with programmes like MPEDA-NaCSA programmes for cluster farming involving small farmers it is a possibility.

After this presentation, Chairman summed the presentations and thanked the experts for their lucid and elaborate presentations of the topics.

**Session 4: Diversification – Candidate Species.**

The afternoon session was held as combination of special presentation by National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and presentations on diversification and the final presentation on Food Safety Management Act of US. The Chairman of the afternoon session was Dr. John Sproul, Assistant Director (Foods), India Int’l program & Policy analyst of USFDA, New Delhi. The first presentation was by Dr. Paul Pandian, Executive Director, NFDB. In this presentation, Dr. Pandian elaborated the various activities and schemes of NFDB for fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

This was followed by a presentation on “Grouper Aquaculture and its Business Options” by Dr. Mike Rimmer. Dr. Rimmer is a Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney and working at the ACIAR Field support Office, Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. In his presentation, Dr. Rimmer gave detailed description about the various aspects of grouper aquaculture including hatchery, nursery and grow out operations. Besides explaining the technical aspects in the value chain of the grouper culture also dwelt on the market aspects also. Coming to the business aspect of grouper culture, Dr. Rimmer explained the integrated as well as segmented options available.

The next presentation was by Dr. Curtis E Lind, Scientist, World Fish Centre, Malaysia. The topic of his presentation was “Considerations about dissemination of improved fish
strains for aquaculture”. The presentation was focused on current status and general approach to genetic improvement, effective dissemination and the technical considerations involved. The message of the presentation was that improved fish have no impact unless they reach the farmers. Therefore the stress need to be given equally or even more on the effective dissemination as only through effective dissemination positive impact on farmers is possible.

Mr. P Anil Kumar, Project Manager of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), Vizhinjam, Kerala, gave the next presentation entitled “RGCA experience in Cobia breeding and culture”. In this presentation, Mr. Anil Kumar explained why Cobia is a desired species for cage culture and described the status of technological developments achieved by RGCA in their hatchery and farming of Cobia. He also mentioned the achievements on spawning, seed production, export of fry and fingerling. As regards to farming of Cobia, Mr. Anil Kumar explained the criteria chosen for site selection, cage construction and farming carried out. Harvesting and preparation of value added products like Sashimi and exhibition of Indian cobia in European Seafood Expo in 2012 also featured in his presentation. He concluded with a list of new candidate species RGCA is planning to breed and culture in future.

“RGCA Experience in Crab Culture” was the topic of next presentation. Mr. S Pandiarajan, Project manager, Seabass and Mud Crab Hatchery Projects of RGCA, Thuduvai, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu gave this presentation. In his presentation, Mr. Pandiarajan, explained the various aspects of hatchery, nursery and farming technology of Mud crab as developed and standardized by RGCA during the last few years and that RGCA is in a position to produce and supply crab instars or crablets to need farmers throughout the year from the new hatchery facility set up by it recently.

The last presentation of the day was by the Chairman of the session himself. In this presentation, Dr. John Sproul explained the “provisions of the new Food Safety Modernization Act of FDA and the mechanism for implementation”. Dr. Sproul has also detailed the schedule for posting comments on the new rules proposed and how to post the comments. He concluded his presentation with a statement that Global partnership will be essential and US FDA look forward to working together toward a bright future in providing a safe food supply world-wide.

The second speaker of the session was Mr. Kapila Tissera from Sri Lanka who has presented the topic “Ornamental Fish – Developing a
Global marketing strategy”. He presented the Sri Lankan model of success in ornamental fish marketing and various initiatives by the Sri Lankan Government for the promotion of ornamental fish development in the country.

The last speaker of the first session was Dr. A Ramachandran of Cochin University of Science & Technology, India on “Significance of Green Certification for Sustaining the Ornamental Fish Resources with special emphasis on Marketing of Wild Caught Fishes”. He presented in detail the concepts of ecolabelling and the importance of green certification brought out by India and about different certification systems in the world like MAC, MSC and other initiatives.

The second session of the day was on “Prospects of Marine Ornamental Fish Farming”, also chaired by Mr. G Mohan Kumar IAS. There were two speakers for the session, Dr. Ricardo Calado from Portugal and Dr. T T Ajith Kumar from CAS, Tamil Nadu, India. Dr. Ricardo spoke on the subject “Marine ornamental decapods aquaculture: broodstock management, larviculture and grow-out”. He described about the differences between conventional aquaculture and ornamental fish culture. Details of different marine ornamental decapods, brood stock management, larviculture, grow-out and future challenges were also described.

Dr. Ajithkumar in his presentation on the “Development of Captive Breeding Technologies for Marine Ornamentals” gave special emphasis on the captive breeding of different species of clown and damsel fishes and scaling up the production at hatchery.

The third session on the “Advances in Freshwater Ornamental Fish Culture” on 9th February 2013 was chaired by Dr. E G Silas, former Vice Chancellor, Kerala agriculture University. Speakers for the session included Mr. Brian Andrews from Australia, Mr. Hans-Georg Evers from Germany, Mr. Andrew Soh from Singapore and Ms. Neli Stoyanova from Zambia.

Mr. Brian spoke on the “Methods, Practices and Techniques for the large scale culture of Ornamental Fish”. He has elaborated the different stages of mass production viz. brood stock holding, spawning, rearing, grow out, purging and packing and also advantages and disadvantages of continuous and batch spawning and grow out.

Mr. Hans has presented “Basic Thoughts about the successful reproduction of Ornamental Fish”.

He has explained about the basic things required such as water, food, space and seasonal changes and the important points that have to be taken care of during breeding different species of fishes.

Mr. Andrew Soh spoke on “ER (Emergency Responses) in Discus” which includes problems and solutions in discus breeding and rearing. The major attributes for the successful
production of Discus include water parameter and condition, diet and nutrition and trouble shooting were also explained in detail.

The final speaker of the session was Ms. Neli Stoyanova on “Practices for quality improvement in the production of Koi”. The topics covered included Koi varieties, Koi appreciation, parent selection and development of breeding lines, culling and Japanese practices for quality improvement.

The last and 4th session on “Technological Advances in Ornamental Fish Trade” was chaired by Dr. A Ramachandran. The first speaker, Mr. Brian, presented “Quarantining new brood stock, Preventing Disease Outbreaks, and Managing diseases of Ornamental Fish Farms’. He stressed the importance of prevention as it is cheaper and in many ways easier than treating the disease. Mr. Hans’s second talk of the day was on “Fishes from India- Opportunities for the Ornamental Fish Trade”. He has explained the indigenous ornamental fishes from India contributing to international trade and opportunities exists for many other indigenous varieties. The final speaker of the technical session was Ms. Neli Stoyanova on “Marketing and Biosecurity aspects of Koi”.

The technical sessions were well attended by the ornamental fish farmers, breeders, exporters and students. They actively participated during the discussions on various topics and concluding remarks for the technical sessions were given by all speakers.

Presentation of Awards for best stalls

Special award for theme pavilion - RGCA

2nd Best Aquaculture Stall - M/s. Eesavyasa Agrotech Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad

2nd Best Ornamental Fish Stall - M/s. Zaman Aquarist, Chennai

Best Aquaculture Stall - M/s. ABI Shrimp Feed, Chhattisgarh

Best Ornamental Fish Stall - M/s. PVR Koi Centre, Chennai
On 10th February 2013, field visit was also arranged for the benefit of farmers from different states so that they would be able to learn more about scientific farming of shrimps and other candidates species like Tilapia. Around 350 farmers, officials and researchers participated in the field visits to the RGCA Scampi projects Kankipadu, Scampi & Tilapia farms at Manikonta and vannamei farms in Kona, Machilipatnam. A few of the invited speakers also found time to pay visits to RGCA projects.
Record survival and growth of Seabass in Kerala cage farm

The high health Seabass fish fingerlings produced in the hatchery of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) achieved record survival and growth in the open water cage farming conducted in Kanjirampuzha river a tributary of Periyar river in Thrissur district of Kerala. Within nine months culture period the fish fingerlings were grown to an average size of 1.100 kg. A record survival rate of more than 88% was achieved during harvest.

The experimental cage culture in open water was undertaken by two self help groups namely Swasraya Jalakarshaka singham and Thathuamathy Self Help Group, functioning under the guidance of Kottapuram Integrated Development Society (KIDS) at Anappuzha, Thrissur district.

Four cages (2x2x1.5m size) were installed by each group at 4.5 m deep area in Kanjirampuzha river, which is a tributary of river Periyar, adjacent to Thuruthipuram-Kottapuram bridge in Thrissur district. 1000 fingerlings were stocked in the cages by each group. Seabass fingerlings each measuring 10 cm size were procured from RGCA's hatchery located in Thoduvai, Nagapatnam district of Tamilnadu.

Grading was carried out in frequent intervals and uniform size fishes stocked in individual cages. Chopped fishes like oil sardine procured from nearby landing centre were given as feed. 4700 kgs trash fishes were fed during culture period of 269 days (9 months), amounting to ₹ 94,000/- towards total feed cost.

Necessary technical guidance was given by officials of Kochi Regional Centre of MPEDA in improving the culture technologies as well as marketing of the fish. 1841 kg of fishes were harvested from the cages and were sold at the site @ ₹ 320 per kg.

The harvest of the cage farmed Seabass fishes was inaugurated by Mr. K Babu, Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala on 24th December 2012 in a function organized at the site. Mr. T N Prathapan, MLA was the guest of honour. The function was presided over by Rev. Fr. Nickson Kattassery, Director, Kottapuram Integrated Development Society (KIDS), Kottapuram.

Mr. M Shaji, Deputy Director, MPEDA, gave a brief outline on the technical aspects of cage farming and activities of MPEDA for the development of Aquaculture in Kerala.

A preliminary survey was also conducted by Deputy Director and Mr. Subramanian, Jr. Technical Officer (Aq.) to locate a suitable site in the river for conducting a demonstration of open water cage culture by MPEDA.
Handbooks on Aquafarming / Freshwater Ornamental Fishes brought out by MPEDA

Hatchery Seed Production and Farming of Cobia – Initiatives
By Anil Kumar P, Johnson D’Cruz, Dhandapani K, Aravind V S, Asokan K, Packiaraj A, Thinesh Santhar D
(Price: Rs 50.00)

Cobia, Rachycentron canadum, is considered as one of the most suitable marine pelagic species for aquaculture. Its fast growth and efficient feed conversion along with excellent meat quality and taste make the species an ideal candidate for marine cage culture. Aquaculture of Cobia was first started in Taiwan, and has also found success in China, Viet Nam, and to a lesser extent in the Americas and Caribbean. In India, the interest in Cobia culture is recent when some Research organizations like the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) attempted breeding of the fish.

This book gives an illustrative description of the Initiatives taken by RGCA in breeding, seed production and cage culture of Cobia. The success in Cobia breeding, cage farming, seed transportation to overseas destinations, production of value added products from cobia meat, and marketing are featured in the 8 chapters of the book. The Hatchery technology of Cobia is treated under the headings: Broodstock management, Larval rearing and Live feed culture. Nursery rearing, Seacage farming and Harvest & Processing are treated under separate headings. A separate treatment of various kinds of infections and health management, copious illustrations with 48 plates, 4 figures, 10 Boxes and 7 tables adds value to the book. The book would be useful to prospective entrepreneurs, officials in the government departments and researchers / students.

Breeding, Seed Production and Farming of Mud Crab:
By Pandiarajan S, Anup Mandal, Ganesh K, Arulraj S, Thampi Sam Raj Y C
(Price: Rs 50.00)

Since the Marine Products Export Development Authority had released the handbook on “Shrimps, Lobsters and Mud Crabs” in the year 1983, crab aquaculture in the country has been in vogue in the country making slow and steady improvements in terms of technology and production levels. However, crab fattening was the main thrust. With the scarcity in availability of crab from the natural environment on one hand and hatcheries in the Government sector producing larger quantities of seeds, the interest is now shifting to culture of crabs. The Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) has made great strides in the hatchery seed production of Mud Crab Scylla serrata, achieving survival rates of over 18% (from hatching to crab instars). That the hatchery is able to produce crab seeds throughout the year ensures continuous supply of crab seeds to the Indian farmers.

The hatchery and grow out technology for Crab culture is readily available in the country for the farmers and entrepreneurs to adopt for their commercial gains. The handbook aims to provide an illustrative description of the hatchery technology and grow out technology for the farmers and entrepreneurs. Apart from chapters on breeding, larval rearing and grow out culture, treating the hatchery and grow out technologies, the handbook also provides a separate chapter on the soft shell crab production which is having much commercial scope. The handbook written in simple language and profusely illustrated with over 65 photographs in 48 printed pages would be highly useful to farmers, entrepreneurs, extension officials of developmental agencies and fisheries departments and the students alike.
Diseases of Cultured Shrimp and Prawn in India

By V N Biju, P Jayagopal, H Dinesh Kumar, D V S N Raju, Jaideep Kumar, M C Remany, Thampi Sam Raj Y C

(Price: Rs 100.00)

With progress in aquaculture, a number of diseases of the cultured organisms have come to the fore. Disease problems pose a continuous threat to the commercial aquaculture farms affecting their economic viability. Due to lack of adequate knowledge about various diseases affecting the farmed species and various pathogens involved, farmers fall prey to the wrong advises of the quacks and ‘shrimp doctors’. This handbook is an attempt to provide the latest information on the various diseases affecting shrimp and prawn in India.

The information on various diseases and pathogens compiled for shrimp and prawn separately is organized into gross signs of the disease, causative agents, host factors, susceptible stages of host, vectors if any, disease patterns, transmission mechanisms, geographical distribution, mortality pattern, general husbandry practices for prevention and control etc. The diseases of shrimp are treated under 4 different categories viz., Viral Diseases, Bacterial diseases, Parasitic / fouling / protozoan diseases and other diseases. Diseases of Fresh water prawn (scampi) are treated under 5 categories viz., Viral diseases, Bacterial diseases, fouling, Fungal diseases and diseases of unknown causative agents. Apart from this, two separate chapters on gross observations and biosecurity are included in view of the importance of these aspects in prevention and control of disease outbreaks in aquaculture farms. The section on gross observations deals on the clinical signs of the shrimp/prawn to be observed at the farm or pond side itself, which is essential for strong case descriptions if not for the disease diagnosis as such. The sampling of specimens, fixation and shipment to aquaculture pathology labs for disease determination is also given importance in the general observation section and will be helpful to the extension officers / technicians / educated farmers in their disease management protocols. In the biosecurity chapter, the various aspects of biosecurity to be ensured in farms and hatcheries is discussed in detail.

On the whole the handbook having about 104 printed pages with illustrations will be highly useful to farmers, hatchery operators, extension staff, technicians and aquaculture students at large.

Diseases in Brackishwater Aquaculture

By K P Jithendran and Sujeet Kumar

(Price: Rs 100.00)

Though brackishwater aquaculture has been synonymous with shrimp culture, of late, there has been a spread in the focus on diversification to species other than shrimp. Many species are there having good potential for aquaculture to produce high protein food to satisfy the increasing human population. In view of the importance the prevention and control of diseases play in the commercial success in aquaculture business, it is imperative that the available information on the diseases, their causative agents, prevention and control methods etc. are popularized among the farmers and extension officials. In this regard, the handbook prepared by Dr. K P Jithendran and Dr. Sujeet Kumar of the Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA), Chennai is a highly commendable effort.

The handbook details the diseases in brackishwater finfish and Mud crab culture in two separate parts. In the first part the diseases in brackishwater finfish aquaculture is dealt in seven chapters covering diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, those with complex etiology, emerging diseases, sporadic non-infectious disorders etc. In each disease, the description of the disease, etiology, host, transmission mechanism, clinical signs, diagnosis, prevention and control etc. are dealt. A total of 36 photos to illustrate the diseases and the simple language used for presenting the subject make this part very easily understandable even to laymen despite some inevitable
Scientific jargons in describing the diseases. The second part of the handbook covers the diseases in mud crab culture. In this part viral, bacterial and fungal diseases and non-infectious diseases of Mud crab in India and other countries have been discussed separately with copious illustrations. Apart from this, a separate chapter is devoted for disease prevention aspect also.

Overall, the handbook makes an excellent reading and farmers, entrepreneurs, extension officials, farm technician and students of aquaculture will find this book very useful.

**LIVING JEWELS - a handbook on Fresh water ORNAMENTAL**

– by V K Dey

(Price: Rs 150.00)

**Review**

MPEDA has brought out various handbooks on diseases, water quality management, transportation, live feed parameters and the breeding and larval development of certain live bearing and egg laying species. The book also provides detailed description on packaging, transportation and common diseases of ornamental fishes. The book has 7 chapters spread over 188 pages with beautiful colour photographs on different species of ornamental fishes and illustrations on packaging methods, which will prove very useful for hobbyists, ornamental fish farmers, exporters, academicians as well as student community for their day today reference.

These books* can be ordered with:
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The MPEDA
MPEDA House,
Panampilly Avenue,
Kochi – 682 036, Kerala
Phone: +91 484 2321722
Fax: +91 484 2312812
e-mail: rmohan@mpeda.nic.in / pubmpeda@gmail.com
(* postage charges extra)
Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), the Research & Development arm of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), is organizing an “International Seminar-Workshop on Mud Crab Aquaculture and Fisheries Management (ISMAF-2013)” in collaboration with the Aquaculture Department of Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC, Philippines) from 10th to 12th April, 2013 at the Technology Transfer Training and Administrative Complex of RGCA at Sirkali, Tamil Nadu, India.

Mud crabs (genus Scylla) are economically important brachyuran crab species, extremely popular because of their large size, meat quality, taste and compatibility for aquaculture. Their rapid growth and high market value, coupled with easy post-harvest handling, make them an attractive alternative to farming shrimp in coastal areas. This valuable component of small scale coastal fisheries of many countries in tropical and subtropical Asia is the victim of increased exploitation in recent years. Unless effectively managed, it is likely that mud crab populations will experience increased fishing pressure and subsequent declination from natural habitat.

The 3-day seminar-workshop envisages to discuss all the above and is being organized with a view to provide latest information and developments on mud crab biology, ecology, physiology, husbandry, nutrition & diseases, genetics, fisheries & resource management, post-harvest product development and marketing. Previous symposia on mud crabs were held in Australia (1997), Philippines (1998, 2004), Vietnam (2001) and China (2009). With the same previous goals, the present seminar-workshop seeks to bring together mud crab scientists, industry practitioners/stakeholders, and the academe from various parts of the globe to discuss the present status of the industry, share insights on relevant issues and identify the problem areas for further research and development on mud crab aquaculture and fisheries management for a sustainable mud crab industry, especially in India. The ISMAF-2013 will be a unique combination of country papers, technical sessions, poster presentations, workshop and field trips to mud crab hatchery and demo farms.

Registration fee for the seminar-workshop is Rs. 5,000/- (for Indian delegates) and US$ 150 (for International delegates). The last date of registration is 10th March, 2013. Registrations will be issued on first-come-first-serve basis. The brochure and the registration form can be downloaded from MPEDA website: www.mpeda.com
The Ministry of Commerce has requested Indian exporters to make the best of the government export schemes to target new markets.

“The objective of Focus Market Scheme is to offset high freight cost and other externalities to select international markets with a view to enhance India’s export competitiveness in these countries whereas the objective of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement or Free Trade Agreement (CECA/FTA) is to cover Trade in Goods as well as Trade in Services and Investment,” said Commerce Secretary, S R Rao.

He also reacted to the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO’s) earlier comment on India’s trade agreements with many countries (ASEAN, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, etc), which according to the export body are encouraging imports rather than promoting exports from the country.

Rao added, “For deriving credible conclusions about impact of these trade agreements on our exports and imports, it is desirable to allow for adequate impact assessment time of at least 4 to 5 years.”

“Moreover, the cause and effect relationship of trade agreements on our trade pattern is not simplistic as it encompasses the effect of many other macro economic factors and policy decisions of the government,” he mentioned.

“I also find it surprising that FIEO, which deals with exports, have not mentioned anything about the new markets that has been opened for its members,” he further said. India-ASEAN trade in goods agreement was fully implemented on August 1, 2011; India-Japan CEPA came into force from August 1, 2011; India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) was implemented from July 1, 2011 and India-Korea CEPA was implemented from January 1, 2010, Rao highlighted.

He added it is too early for FIEO to comment on the impact that the trade agreements have in our exports and imports.

During April-September period, exports to Singapore, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand stood at USD 6.6 billion, USD 2.6 billion, USD 1.9 billion, USD 1.7 billion and USD 1.5 billion, respectively. And, imports from Singapore, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand have increased to USD 3.5 billion, USD 5.9 billion, USD 6.1 billion, USD 5.3 billion and USD 2.7 billion, respectively, from the same period last year.

India to extend realisation of export in rupee

The central government of India is planning to extend the realisation of export in rupee for more foreign nations replacing the dollar or pound, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Anup Kumar Pujari said yesterday. At present, Iran, which is faced with US sanctions, happens to be the only country where Indian export is realised in rupee.

Speaking at a business talk in Kolkata yesterday, Pujara said there is a growing realisation in the union government that India must try strengthening its own currency in the global economy and allowing export realisation in rupee was an important step in that direction.

“Talks are on with the Reserve Bank of India for devising some appropriate mechanism so that the export realisation in rupee term can be extended for more countries, barring our immediate neighbours with whom we share land customs stations,” the DGFT said. “Once this is done, export realisation in rupee will also be eligible to get export benefits.”

When asked how this could be possible since the Indian rupee is not convertible on the capital account, Pujari said it would not be a problem. “Work is in progress in this regard and an appropriate enabling mechanism will be put in place,” he said.

The DGFT explained that extending export realisation in rupee to neighbouring countries such as Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh was not desirable at preset as India’s borders with these countries were very porous, making it impossible to keep all exports accounted for.

Responding to a concern over rising input costs in the leather industry, Pujara said that the Centre acknowledges these difficulties but there was nothing that it can do about it immediately. “But one thing that we will do is, permit manual filing (for exports) if there is repeated problem in transmissions of shipping bills.”
RBI committee to review facilities to exporters

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a technical committee under the chairmanship of G Padmanabhan, executive director in the central bank, to look into the challenges faced by exporters, including availability of credit and transaction costs.

The committee would have representation from Export-Import Bank of India, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation and industry bodies such as Federation of Indian Export Organisations, Indian Banks’ Association and Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India, RBI said.

It added the committee had been set up to review existing policies and procedures relating to bank finance for exports. It would suggest steps to ensure timely, adequate and hassle-free flow of credit towards working capital, capital expenditure and other requirements, especially for small and medium enterprises. The committee would consider alternative sources of funding for exporters, assess the efficacy of the schemes and facilities of entities such as Exim Bank and ECGC and, if required, suggest changes. It would also look at the needs of exporting units located in special economic zones and suggest risk-mitigation measures for exporters, RBI said. The committee, which has been asked to give its report by April, has invited suggestions from stakeholders by February-end.

Mauritius offers zero customs duty regime for Indian companies setting up shop in the island nation

Mauritius has offered a zero customs duty regime for Indian firms to gain easier access to European Union and Africa. Mauritian minister for trade and industry Sayyad Abd-Al-Cader Sayed Hossen discussed the country’s free port policy with commerce and industry minister Anand Sharma on Friday.

The minister’s visit comes ahead of the India-Mauritius joint working group meeting later this month to review the bilateral tax treaty. Mauritius has agreed to incorporate a limitation of benefit clause in the tax treaty to assuage India’s concerns on the abuse of tax treaty by investors from third countries without making substantial investment in the island nation by operating through post box companies.

Mauritius enjoys duty-free access for its goods in European Union and Africa through its trade agreements. Indian companies setting up shop in the island nation will not only enjoy duty-free regime in Mauritius but also gain preferential access in these markets. The special arrangement of Mauritius with Common market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Duty Free Quota Free (DFQF) regime with EU will come into effect in this policy.

The Mauritius Freeport is a dutyfree logistics, distribution and marketing hub for the Eastern and Southern African region. Logistics and warehousing facilities are readily available for the transshipment, consolidation, storage and minor processing of goods. Sharma said that both the countries should look at the possibility of establishing Integrated Textile Park in Mauritius and asked the officials to give a concept paper on this within two weeks. Sharma said India and Mauritius have initiated steps towards setting up Mauritius-India Joint Business Council and a Joint Working Group (JWG) on trade and investment.

“The Joint Business Council will be a robust institutional mechanism for giving a boost to trade and investment ties by identifying the priority sectors and sectors of engagement,” Sharma said in a statement.

“The JWG would further work out the modalities for broadening and deepening the economic engagement between the two countries,” Sharma added. In 2011-12, the bilateral trade between India and Mauritius grew by 68%.

The Economic Times
US to issue findings on warmwater shrimp import case in March

The US department of commerce will issue its preliminary findings on the case of alleged unfair competition from warmwater shrimp imports on or around March 25 this year.

On Thursday, Feb. 6, the US International Trade Commission (ITC) voted 5-1 to approve to continue the case against frozen warmwater shrimp imports from China, Ecuador, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The US consumed 1.3 billion pounds of warmwater shrimp in 2011, of which 87.6% were imported.

Combined, the seven countries investigated exported $4.3 billion worth of warmwater shrimp to the US in 2011, accounting for 86% of the total US warmwater shrimp imports.

The main exporters that year were, in terms of value: Thailand, Indonesia, Ecuador, India, Vietnam, Mexico, Malaysia and China.

According to the Coalition of Gulf Shrimp Industries, those imports are subsidized, harming the US industry.

The ITC’s vote reflected that “there is a reasonable indication that a US industry is materially injured” by reason of the afore-mentioned imports “that are allegedly subsidized”.


The products under investigation consist of frozen warmwater shrimp and prawns, whether wild-caught or farm-raised, head-on or head-off, shell-on or peeled, tail-on or tail-off, deveined or not deveined, cooked or raw, or otherwise processed in frozen form, regardless of size.

The products described may be processed from any species of warmwater shrimp and prawns. Frozen shrimp and prawns that are packed with marinade, spices or sauce are included in the scope. In addition, food preparations (including dusted shrimp), which are not “prepared
meals”, that contain more than 20% by weight of shrimp or prawn are also included in the scope.

Excluded from the scope are: (1) breaded shrimp and prawns; (2) shrimp and prawns generally classified in the Pandalidae family and commonly referred to as coldwater shrimp, in any state of processing; (3) fresh shrimp and prawns whether shell-on or peeled; (4) shrimp and prawns in prepared meals; (5) dried shrimp and prawns; (6) canned warmwater shrimp and prawns; and (7) certain “battered shrimp.” The document says the US has 58 shrimp processors, located in nine states – Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas.

The industry in the US employed 1,922 direct and indirect workers. The Commission’s public report Frozen Warmwater Shrimp from China, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam (Investigation Nos. 701-TA-491-497 (Preliminary), USITC Publication 4380, February 2013) will contain the views of the Commission and information developed during the investigations.

MoU signed between CMFRI and Celestial Biolabs Limited, Hyderabad

For commercial production and marketing of Cadalmin™ Green Algal extract in the presence of Hon’ble DG, ICAR

Dr. G. Syda Rao, Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and Dr. A.N. Singh, Managing Director, Celestial Biolabs limited, Hyderabad signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the gracious presence of Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Hon’ble Director General, ICAR for commercial production and marketing of Cadalmin™ Green Algal extract (Cadalmin™ G Ae). Shri Arvind R. Kaushal, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR, Dr. K.M.L. Pathak, DDG, Animal Science, Dr. M.M. Pandey, DDG, Engineering, Dr. S.K. Datta, DDG, Crop Sciences, Dr. B. Meenakumari, DDG, Fisheries, Dr. Gaya Prasad, ADG, Animal Health and Director, IVRI and Dr AK Vasisth, ADG, PIM/ESM were also present on the occasion.

Cadalmin™ G Ae contains 100% natural marine bioactive anti-inflammatory ingredients extracted from selected marine macroalga by a patented technology. The product is effective to combat arthritic pain and inflammatory diseases in human beings. The active principles in Cadalmin™ G Ae competitively inhibit pro-inflammatory mediators, resulting in decreased production of inflammatory prostaglandins and leukotrienes, and its activity was found to be superior to some of the synthetic non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs available in the market. Animal model experiments proved the efficiency and safety of this nutraceutical. Time dependent in vivo animal model studies on mammalian subjects revealed the inhibition of inflammatory response to the tune of 73-76% by Cadalmin™ G Ae and its active components as compared to a maximum of 70% for the popular painkiller aspirin that was reported to induce an adverse effect on various human metabolic and physiological parameters. Cadalmin™ G Ae suppresses the edema produced by histamine, and exhibits its anti-inflammatory action by means of either inhibiting the synthesis, release or action of anti-inflammatory mediators. The mean lethal dose
(LD50) of Cadalmin™ GAe was found to be greater than 4000 mg/kg body weight of the mammalian subjects that indicate the safety of the product. As part of the further safety assessment of the extract, feeding of Cadalmin™ GAe even at a dose up to 2500 mg/kg body weight did not induce significant change in body weights, hematological indices, histopathological, and serum biochemical parameters between the control and treated groups indicating that it has no toxicity to the experimental animals.

Cadalmin™ GAe distributed to more than 400 patients suffering with chronic joint pain and arthritis, and questionnaire and clinical trial-based studies revealed that more than 98% of the respondents consumed Cadalmin™ GAe were satisfied with the product with about 70-85% relief in joint pain and arthritis. None of the respondents reported any side effects. The diagnostically useful autoantibody termed as Rheumatoid Factors (RFs), which are the most useful prognostic marker for rheumatoid arthritis significantly reduced from more than 300 IU/mL to less than 20-35 IU/mL within a period of two months of consuming the product.

Cadalmin™ GAe is a pure natural and 100% vegetarian product, with its therapeutic values, is an import substitute for synthetic drugs. Being a 100% natural product Cadalmin™ GAe has a promising consumer appeal, and market potential especially for the large vegetarian population in India and abroad. The unique biochemical engineering techniques adopted to
retain the anti-inflammatory activities in the preparation of Cadalmin™ GAe assures higher shelf life. Detailed evaluation using laboratory animal models proved that Cadalmin™ GAe could be safely taken without any side effects, providing relief to people suffering from arthritis and joint pain. The hygienically processed active ingredients are housed in low moisture content 100% plant-based Naturecaps capsules that meet the dietary or cultural needs of customers that follow a vegetarian lifestyle. This product will be commercially produced and marketed by Celestial Biolabs Limited, a GMP/ WHO certified pharmaceutical Company based at Hyderabad.

NEW OFFICERS JOIN MPEDA

Mr. Archiman Lahiri
Assistant Director (EP), Sub-Regional Office, Kollam

Mr. Hakkim V I
Assistant Director (EP), Regional Office, Mumbai

Mr. Ginson Joseph
Assistant Director (EP), Regional Office, Kolkata

Dr. Manojkumar T G
Assistant Director (EP), Aquaculture Section, MPEDA HO, Kochi

Dr. Shassi S
Assistant Director (EP), A&I Section, MPEDA HO, Kochi

Mr. Rakesh Thomas Kurian
Assistant Director (EP), Regional Office, Visakhapatanam

Mr. Sunil Kumar U
Assistant Director (Regn.), Registration Section, MPEDA HO, Kochi

Mrs. Neenu Peter
Assistant Director (AE), Regional Centre, Kochi