



MPEDA

Newsletter

Vol.VI/No.10/ JANUARY 2019

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**Global Kokan Festival
makes an impression**

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**MPEDA - RGCA opens
Multispecies Aquaculture Complex
at Kochi**

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Printed and Published by
Mr. B. Sreekumar, Secretary
on behalf of The Marine Products
Export Development Authority
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
MPEDA House, Panampilly Avenue
Kochi - 682 036, Tel: +91 484 2311979

Published by
MPEDA House
Panampilly Avenue
Kochi - 682 036

Printed at
Print Express
44/1469A, Asoka Road
Kaloor, Kochi - 682 017



K. S. Srinivas IAS
Chairman

Dear friends,

Wish you a very bright and prosperous year ahead. The market reports indicate that the demand for shrimps got revived, as many of the major suppliers have regulated their supplies of shrimp to major markets like USA, European Union, Japan etc. The restraint in production shown by shrimp farmers of India has helped to reduce the excess supply condition so that the markets could clear of the shelves and keep off from discounted sales. We are hopeful of sustained demand for shrimp enabling our exporters and farmers to get adequate returns for their efforts.

Reports from China indicate that there had been over 200% increase in the export of marine products from India to China. This is encouraging considering the potential of China as one of the largest importer of seafood. Yet there are certain teething problems to be resolved in the bilateral seafood trade between India and China, and for which MPEDA had sought the help of Embassy of India in Beijing for appropriate interventions.

MPEDA has already geared up to participate in the upcoming seafood shows such as Seafood Expo North America, Boston to be held during 17th to 19th March, 2019 and also the Seafood Expo Global, Brussels scheduled during 7th to 9th May, 2019. We are having a large contingent of exporters participating along with MPEDA in both these shows.

MPEDA is also preparing a brand promotion plan for Indian seafood and for which consultation with the Seafood Exporters Association have already been done and a proposal is being prepared for the same.

Thank you.

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Global Kokan Festival makes an impression



MPEDA stall at Global Kokan Festival 2019

MPEDA has marked its presence in a powerful manner at the Global Kokan Festival, held from 03-06, January 2019. Mr. Ravindra Chavan, Minister of Ports, Government of Maharashtra, inaugurated the Kokan Festival on 3rd January 2019 along with Mr. Ashish Shelar, MLA, Bhai Jagtap, MLC and other political leaders.

MPEDA, Regional Division, Mumbai presented live crab, chilled items (Black Tiger and *L. Vannamei* shrimp, lobster, grouper, croaker, tilapia, pomfret, dried items, ornamental fish, canned items, retorted, AFD products and other VAP marine products. Freezer, chiller and aquarium displays were set up in the stall.

To highlight extra dimension in MPEDA stall, Regional Division Mumbai incorporated cooking demonstration of VAP products, as requested by M/s. Gadre Marine Exports Pvt Ltd, M/s. Forstar Frozen Foods Pvt Ltd and M/s. West Coast Frozen Foods Pvt Ltd.

Cooking demonstration was one of the major attraction for visitors in MPEDA stall. MPEDA stall had a good display of the video on good manufacturing and aquaculture practices, making the visit to the stall



Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry giving award to Mr. Bhushan Patil, Asst. Director, MPEDA at Global Kokan Festival 2019

attractive and informative. The participation was arranged through MPEDA Regional Division, Mumbai.

NETFISH-MPEDA organised a street play on sustainable fisheries and marine conservation on 4th January 2019,

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MPEDA officials at Gobal Kokan Festival 2019

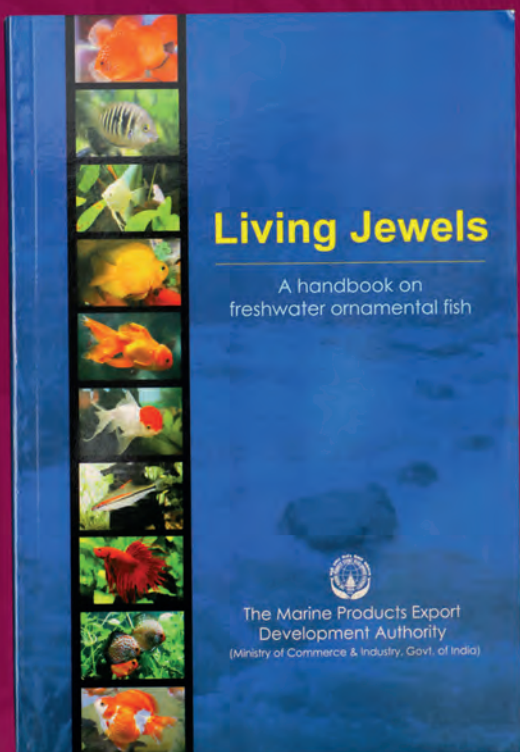
which had a good impact among audience, which got good number of spectators. The most impressive moment came when Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, visited the Global Kokan Festival on 5th January 2019 and stopped over at the MPEDA stall. It was a honour when he posted



(Left to Right) Mr. Kishor Dharia, Chairman, Hirwal Pratishthan, Adv. Ashish Shelar, MLA, Hon'ble Ravindra Chavan, Minister of Ports, Government of Maharashtra and Bhai Jagtap, MLC at MPEDA stall in Global Kokan Festival

MPEDA stall photo in his official twitter account (@sureshprabhu) later.

He also complimented the works done by MPEDA in his speech next day and presented award to MPEDA for distinctive participation in Global Kokan Festival.



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MPEDA at 16th AgroFood & Beverage Processing International Exhibition



Mr. Bhushan Patil, Asst. Director receives Export Business Development award from Mr. Subhash Desai, Minister of Industries, Government of Maharashtra, in presence of Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi and Mr. Joseph Dias, Chairman, Trinity Group

MPEDA through its Regional Division, Mumbai participated in 16th AgroFood & Beverage Processing International Exhibition, which was held at Bombay Exhibition Centre (NESCO) Goregaon, Mumbai from 18-20, December 2018.

Mr. Subhash Desai, Minister of Industries, Government of Maharashtra, Mr. Gurbaxish Singh Kohli, Vice President, Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Association (FHRAI), Mr. Ramesh K. Kalnawat, Commercial Director, Austrian Embassy and Celebrity Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi inaugurated the exhibition and conference held along with that.

MPEDA took 9 sq. m. stall and displayed frozen products like HL Shrimp IQF, Tilapia fish fillets, steaks, Pangasius fillets and fish fingers. MPEDA stall was visited mainly by domestic stake holders like hoteliers, raw material suppliers, fisher community and society representatives. Some of the visitors gathered information about MPEDA

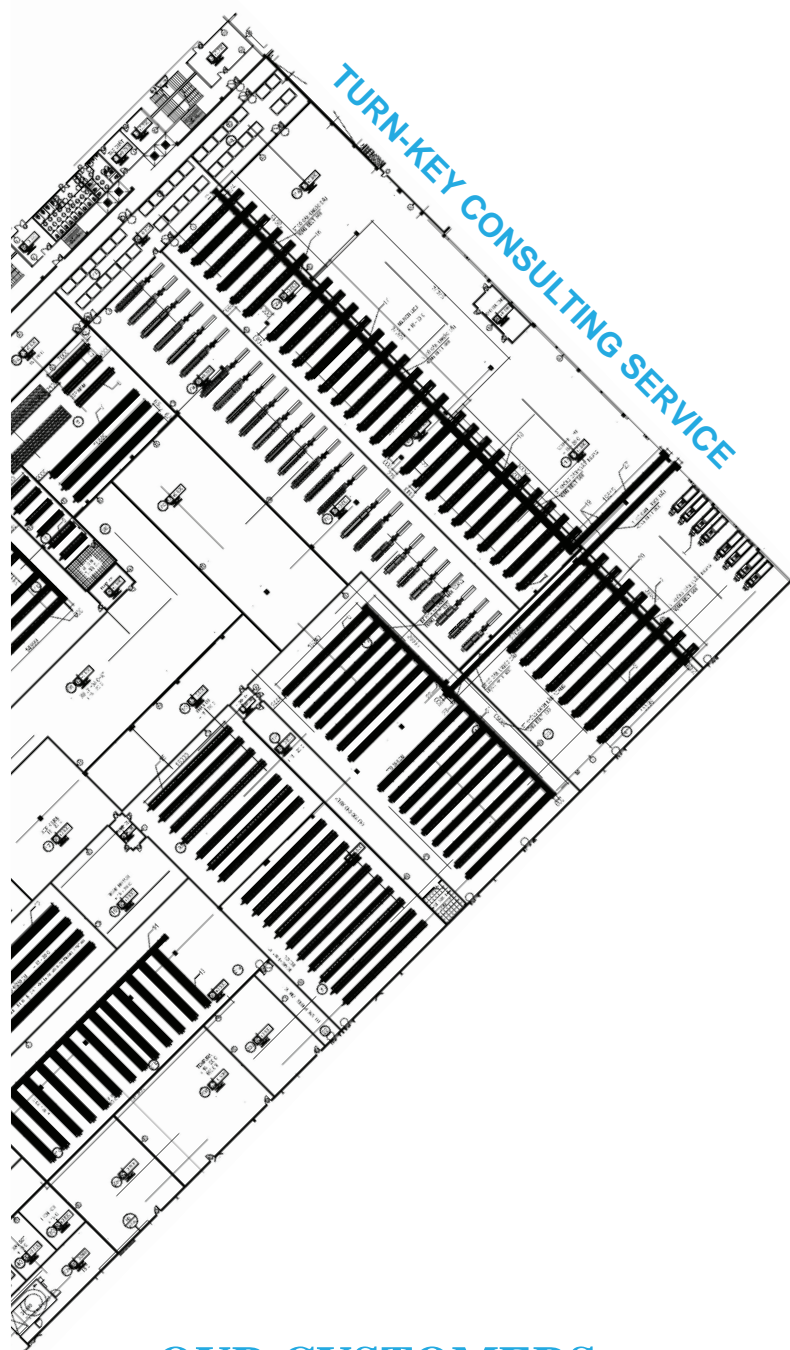
subsidies in aquaculture and processing sectors. It was interesting to note that the visitors would like to buy the products exhibited and asked about their processing, preservation and kind of varieties exported from India.

Over 200 brands from India and foreign countries like Afghanistan and South Africa were represented in the mega event, which drew about 7,000 business and trade visitors, besides thousands of general visitors.

Best of India Biz Awards presented to the various winners in different government and private sectors categories was the main highlight of the event. Union Government export promotion agencies like MPEDA, APEDA, National Institute of Food Technology, Coir Board, etc. participated along with the States, Directorates of Agriculture and Horticulture from Chattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Assam and the Department of Industries from Bihar. Internationally renowned interior designer, Kanika Bawa also put up mock-up



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hotel rooms and a demo cafeteria, introducing new concepts in automation. There were latest innovative concepts centered on the themes of energy saving, sustainability, nutrition, efficiency and the environment.

The event also witnessed a number of interaction opportunities - new product launches, tasting and sampling, trade and B2B meetings, presentations and workshops - with a number of raw material suppliers, directors and top management, policy makers and other stakeholders visiting the mega show. The 16th AgroFood & Beverage Processing International Exhibition & Conference was well covered in the media

with advertisements being carried in national and local language newspapers. The media also featured the logos of the various government agencies and the same was printed on mugs, plates and T-Shirts which were distributed on the occasion.

Mr. Subhash Desai, Minister of Industries, Government of Maharashtra, along with Chef Mr. Harpal Singh Sokhi and Mr. Joseph Dias, Chairman, Trinity Group presented the awards. Mr. Bhushan Patil, Assistant Director, Regional Division Mumbai received the award on behalf of MPEDA in the category of Export Business Development on the last day of the AgriExpo.



Mr. Subhash Desai, Minister of Industries, Government of Maharashtra along with Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi and Mr. Joseph Dias, Chairman, Trinity Group visiting MPEDA stall



Mr. Kiyoshi Kimura, President, Kiyomura Corporation, Japan meets Mr. K. S. Srinivas IAS, Chairman at MPEDA Head Office. Mr. Kimura leads the popular sushi restaurant chain in Japan "Sushi-Zanmai", and is also famous for his world record bid of USD 3 million for Blue fin tuna in 2019 new year tuna auction.

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Workshop on Seafood value addition



Inauguration of the National Workshop on seafood value addition

MPEDA organised a "National workshop and interactive meeting on value added marine products" with exporters at Visakhapatnam, to provide an impetus to the efforts on value addition of seafood in the country.

Mr. V. Padmanabham, President of Seafood Exporters' Association of India, inaugurated the workshop at WelcomHotel Grand bay, Vishakapatnam on 20th December 2018. Mr. T. Dola Sankar IOFS, Director (Marketing), MPEDA, presided over the inaugural session.

The workshop was designed to give the seafood fraternity an insight into the latest developments on the production and marketing of value added marine products, and had presentation of success stories by Indian entrepreneurs. The presentations were followed by an interactive meet with the participating stakeholders to frame up policy recommendations required to facilitate and enhance value addition of marine products in India.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Padmanabham, stressed on the importance and need of the value addition to diversify the sector further. Dr. P. Paul Pandian, Fishery Development Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. G. Rathinaraj, Executive Director, NFDB and

Mr. Y.S. Prasad, Chief Executive Officer, Food Processing Society, Government of Andhra Pradesh felicitated the function.



Presentation by Mr T. Dola Sankar IOFS, Director (Marketing), MPEDA

Dr. Ram Mohan M.K., Joint Director (Marketing) welcomed the gathering and Mr. Anilkumar P., Joint Director (Aqua) proposed the vote of thanks. Mr. V.I. Hakkim, Assistant Director (Development), MPEDA, coordinated the programme.

The Workshop had seven presentations on value

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A view of the speakers and participants

addition and success stories in value addition by various eminent speakers from the industry.

The first session began with a presentation by Mr. T. Dola Sankar IOFS, Director (Marketing), MPEDA, on the 'Overview of value-added seafood trade in major markets and MPEDA assistance schemes'. Mr. Abhijit Talekar from M/s. Gadre Marine Exports, Ratnagiri, presented the "Scope and challenges in value-added seafood product marketing" and explained the experience in retail marketing of Surimi analogue products. Mr. Venkat Nekkanti from M/s. Nekkanti Seafoods made a presentation on 'Catering of value-added shrimp products to US retail markets' and highlighted the shrimp product forms that are marketed in US and talked about the opportunities for further value-added product export to US shrimp markets.

This was followed by the presentation on 'Product development and fine tuning value addition' by Dr. Dileep Parasnis of M/s. Forstar Frozen Foods, Mumbai. Mr. Alex K. Thomas, CEO of M/s. Daily Fish, presented his personal account on the 'Utilization of digital platforms in satiating customer preferences'.

Mr. Aditya Dash, Managing Director of M/s. Rams Assorted Cold Storage, Bhubaneswar, shared his experience in the 'Entrepreneurial prospects in seafood value addition and growth inhibitors'. He has also shared information on the avenues of investments and market tools that can be utilized by entrepreneurs in investing on value addition and marketing the products. The last presentation was by Dr. Madhusoodhana Rao, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFT, Vizag, on the 'Initiatives by CIFT in value-added product development and business incubation facilities'.

The post-lunch session had an interactive meet with stakeholders, which was chaired by Mr. Koteswar Rao,

Additional Director, Department of Fisheries, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The speakers themselves became panel members and took the lead role for discussing and answering the questions of the stakeholders. Various participants raised the issues regarding the import of fishery products meant for exports primarily delay in getting the cargo clearance by the exporters. Issues like the disposal of the thermocol boxes used in chilled fish exports for high value fishery items also were discussed. Dr. Madhusoodana Rao of CIFT informed that they will take up a study for developing a method for recycling thermocol boxes, which is one of the main leftover from the chilled fish export. Mr. Rohan Tandel, M/s. Tandels, Navsari, Gujarat, presented his experience in value-addition for Japanese market.

At the end of the workshop, a committee was formed with Mr. T. Dola Sankar IOFS, Director (Marketing), MPEDA, as the head. The other members were Mr. V. Padmanabham, President-SEAI, Mr. Aditya Dash, M/s. Rams Assorted Cold Storage, Dr. Ram Mohan M. K., Joint Director (Marketing) and Mr. Anilkumar P., Joint Director (Aqua), Dr. Dileep Parasnis, M/s. Forstar Frozen Foods, Mumbai and Mr. Kedar Nath, M/s. Sashimi Foods, Bangalore.



A view of the workshop

The committee after deliberations framed up recommendations on policy interventions required to promote the export of value-added marine products from the country.

The workshop was successful in providing useful information on the issues involved in seafood value addition and through the interactive meet the probable recommendations brought up for policy interventions to improve the share of value added products exports from the country. 63 representatives and decision makers from various seafood processing establishments across all the maritime states of India and officers from various field offices of MPEDA attended the workshop.



NETFISH's Clean-Up Drives at Harbours and Beaches

As part of NETFISH's objective to improve the hygiene at fish landing sites as well as to conserve the ocean from marine pollution, a series of clean-up drives were organised during December 2018 in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The basic aim of the programmes was to make the fishers and the general public aware about the need of cleanliness of fish contact surfaces for maintaining its quality and the importance of avoiding plastic pollution in protecting the seas and its resources.

On 21st December 2018, a beach clean-up programme was conducted at Muthunagar Beach, Tuticorin with the active involvement of around 220 school students from Classes 6 to 12 of SDR School, Tuticorin. The students were divided into several groups, guided by the school teachers, and provided with gunny bags, brooms, gloves, caps etc. as cleaning aids. More than 200 kgs. of plastic wastes including carry bags, nylon ropes, empty plastic cement bags etc. were removed from the shore by the students. Some members of the general public who visited the place also joined the drive. The collected debris was documented and emptied in the Municipality garbage disposal tank kept at the beach.

A drawing competition on the topic "Conservation of underwater world" was also conducted among 80 students of Classes 1 to 5. NETFISH provided drawing kits and caps and the winners were presented with mementos. The message of conservation of coastal ecosystems, beaches and fisheries was disseminated among the school children by the event.

In Karnataka, two harbour clean-up programmes were conducted by NETFISH on 22nd and 28th December 2018 at Honnavar and Karwar respectively. Fisheries officials, Fishermen Association members, boat owners, crew members and fisher women workers actively participated in the programmes. In the beginning of the event, the importance of maintenance of hygiene and sanitation in work place was explained to the gathering and they were urged to practice hygienic fish handling on-board as well as in harbour. Then a demonstration on proper way of cleaning fishing vessel, fishing harbour and auction hall was done for the participants. After that, the participants were involved in the clean-up activity. Hygiene kits consisted of liquid hand wash, hair oil, comb, tooth paste and brush were distributed among the fishers in the programme.



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The beach clean-up drive organized at Alibaug beach, Raigad, Maharashtra on 28th December 2018 had a participation of about 35 NSS volunteers from J.S.M. College, Alibaug. Monofilament net pieces, pieces of thermocol, plastic carry bags, mineral water bottles, plastic chappals, shoes, pouches of tobacco, etc. were collected in bags and disposed off safely. NETFISH distributed T-shirts and caps to all the participants. After the programme, the Principal of JSM College assured to do the beach clean-up programme once in every month.



Assistant Director, Fisheries inaugurating the clean-up programme at Honnavar



Small children participating in the drawing competition at Tuticorin



Fish workers cleaning the Honnavar harbour



Cleanup drive at Muthunagar beach, Tuticorin

Training given on Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana



MPEDA officials with the participants of the programme

Training for seafood processing technicians was organised under the PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana) at M/s. Nila Sea Foods Pvt. Ltd. Pudurpandiapuram, Tuticorin from 27-29, December 2018.

A pre-screening was held at the unit on 7th December 2018, where 30 processing workers attended. Mrs. Anju, Assistant Director, MPEDA, distributed the pre-screening questionnaire with questions in English and vernacular language to the candidates to assess their skill gaps.

After the pre-screening, details of the candidates were uploaded in the NSDC site. After that, the training batch was created and 30 candidates were enrolled for the RPL (Recognised Prior Learning) trainings. The District Collectorate was informed about the training in advance.

Mrs. Anju, Assistant Director, MPEDA inaugurated the training by lighting the lamp along with Mr. Santhakumar, Quality Assurance Manager, M/s. Nila Sea Foods Pvt. Ltd. and Dr. Vinoth S. Ravindran, State Coordinator (SCO), NETFISH. Following the inauguration, PMKVY kits were distributed among participants.

Marking the start of the session, Mrs. Anju introduced the programme and explained the importance of the same in the present scenario. This was followed by Dr. Vinoth S. Ravindran, State Coordinator (SCO), NETFISH talking on the preparation and maintenance of work area and process machineries in order, based on syllabus in the National Occupational Standards (NOS) issued by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and FICSI.

In the afternoon session he explained how to "prepare for execution of fish and seafood processing" and "Execution of fish and seafood processing" based on NOS. The training programme was based on "qualifications pack-fish and seafood processing technician – course manual" issued by PMKVY- FICSI.

On the second day, Dr. Vinoth explained about "complete documentation and record keeping related to processing of firm and seafood". In the afternoon session, class on HACCP with details on food safety, hygiene and sanitation for processing food products based on NOS of NSDC was held.

Trainees were given practical training during the second day afternoon session. Demonstrations on the Good

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Inauguration of the training programme

Manufacturing Practices (GMP) related to personal hygiene, hygienic handling of processing materials, maintenance of machineries and work etc. were made during this session. The participants were given training on the whole process during production.

On the final day, external assessor Mrs. Vijya Durga Devi, Quality Assurance Manager, M/s. V.V. Marine Products, evaluated the participants and their performance on the basis of the Assessment criteria issued in the NOS of NSDC and FICSI. Theoretical and practical assessments were made by the assessor in the presence of Assistant Director, MPEDA and SCO, NETFISH Tuticorin.

Another PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana) training session for seafood processing technician was conducted at M/s. Kadalkanny Frozen Foods, Krishnarajapuram, Tuticorin from 02-04, January 2019.

A pre screening was conducted in the company premises on 10th December 2018, as part of this. A total of 30 processing workers attended the pre-screening test. Mrs. Anju, Assistant Director, distributed the pre-screening questionnaire with questions in English and vernacular language to the candidates to assess their skill gaps. Before the pre-screening, details of the candidates such as Aadhar, bank account number, address and other details were collected.

After the pre-screening, details of the candidates were uploaded in the NSDC site, following which batch

was created and 30 candidates were enrolled for the RPL (Recognised Prior Learning) trainings. The District Collector was informed about the date of training ahead of the programme held at M/s. Kadalkanny Frozen Foods.

Mrs. Anju, Assistant Director, MPEDA, Mrs. Greeta P, Production Executive, M/s. Kadalkanny Frozen Foods, and Dr. Vinoth S. Ravindran, State Coordinator (SCO), NETFISH, launched the programme with the lighting of the lamp. The trainees were issued the PMKVY kits comprising of PMKVY caps and aprons and required stationery.

The sessions were handled by Mrs. Anju, Assistant Director, MPEDA, and Dr. Vinoth S. Ravindran, State Coordinator (SCO), NETFISH based on syllabus in the National Occupational Standards (NOS) issued by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and FICSI.

An assessment was made on the third day by the external assessor Mrs. Vijaya Durga Devi, Quality Assurance Manager, M/s V.V. Marine Products based on the assessment criteria issued in the NOS of NSDC and FICSI. Theoretical and practical assessments were made by the assessor in the presence of Assistant Director, MPEDA and SCO, NETFISH Tuticorin. The proceedings of assessments including photos, videos and other documentations as required were uploaded during the assessment.



Fishers get training on 'Safety at Sea'



Sea Safety training programme in Cuddalore

NETFISH, in association with NGO SRMSS, conducted three training programmes on Sea Safety and Navigation at Paradeep fishing harbour, Odisha on December 17, 18 and 19.

The training programme was aimed at skippers, drivers and crew members of fishing vessels operating from the harbour. The trainees were made aware about the safety and security at sea, protected areas for fishing, importance of registration and license of fishing boat, use of different life saving equipment such as life jacket, lifebuoy, life raft, distress alert transmitter machine and fire fighting equipment and different communication measures during distress.

The training programme at Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu was held on 12th and 13th, December 2018, in association with the NGO SOHES. The sea safety programme and GPS training programme was attended by 60 participants including drivers, boat owners and boat labourers. The participants were given awareness lessons on the importance of personal safety, functions of GPS, various GPS receivers, GPS accuracy, GPS signal reception, how to record a waypoint, how to navigate to the recorded waypoints, how to use GPS waypoints in rescue situations, troubleshooting etc. They were also

given a demonstration about the safety equipment and the measures to manage emergency situation.



GPS training in Cuddalore

The third training session on sea safety and navigation was held at Raigad on 28th December 2018, where 27 persons participated. They were given training on life saving equipment, radar reflectors, first aid box, Radio RT equipment, DAT, Safety beacon- EPIRB, SART, rules of the road, various signals, buoys, emergency contacts, etc. and were given a demonstration on the proper usage of these equipment.



Awareness meeting on sustainability, traceability and certification



MPEDA officials with participants and officials of Fisheries department

MPEDA has published the new Schemes under capture fisheries in the last week of December 2018 and it was decided that regional divisions will organise awareness programmes for giving wider publicity of the schemes among the various stake holders in the capture fisheries sector. In addition to fishing vessel owners and fishermen societies, it was decided to involve the regional officials from the Department of Fisheries in the awareness meetings and presentation programmes as the matter is directly involved with the safety of fishermen and sustainable fisheries.

In tune to this decision, the Sub Regional Division of MPEDA at Ratnagiri organized a half-day awareness programme at Pethkila, Ratnagiri. The programme was organized in association with the Ratnagiri District Fisheries Federation at Pethkila, which has given wide publicity of the programme among their members as well as among various fishermen and boat owners' associations. The Federation also offered their meeting hall to conduct the programme without any charges.

Dr. T.R. Gibinkumar, Deputy Director, MPEDA Sub Regional Division, Ratnagiri, initiated the proceedings with an introductory address. Mr. Anand B. Palav,

Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries in charge of Ratnagiri, Mr. A.B. Salunkhe, Head, Fisheries Training Institute under the Department of Fisheries and Mr. Babamiya Mukadam, Chairman, Ratnagiri District Fisheries Federation, offered felicitations.

In his address, Mr. Anand B Palav mentioned about the schemes of the Fisheries Department under the Blue Revolution Programme. Mr. A.B. Salunkhe talked about the training programmes conducted by the Fisheries Training Institute and offered to provide publicity as well as participants for the similar programmes of MPEDA in future.

Mr. Babamiya Mukadam extended the full support of the Federation for MPEDA's programmes and requested to have consultations with fishermen and fishing vessel owner societies during the preparation stages of schemes for capture fisheries sector.

Dr. T.R. Gibinkumar made presentations on schemes by MPEDA for sustainability, traceability and certification and also presented the presentation and brochures from the empanelled equipment suppliers. The contact details of empanelled vendors for electronic equipment as well as Matsyafed Net Factory were provided to

FOCUS AREA

the participants. About 35 participants who attended the awareness programme included vessel owners, fishermen society members and fishery department officials.

From among the participants Mr. Jawed Wadkar, member of the Ratnagiri Taluka Purse Seining Net Machchimaar Malak Association and Mr. Mahesh Manohar Ayre, member of Bhagavati Machimaar Society,

provided the feedback.

Both of them suggested conducting the demonstration of equipment in order to have a clear understanding of their performance as well as to know more about the operating expenses including the talk time and subscription charges related to satellite phone and VMS. Mr. Gajanan Dali, Secretary, Ratnagiri District Fisheries Federation proposed the vote of thanks.



Brainstorming on improving export prospects



MPEDA organised a brain-storming session on 'Bridging the gaps – in the first mile connectivity for improving the exports of seafood' with fisheries department officials of all maritime States. The session was held at MPEDA head office on 12th December 2018.

There were detailed discussions on the varied issues pertaining to the fishing sector, such as the upgradation of the existing fishing harbours with all the required infrastructure, conservation measures for sustainable fisheries, regulating fishing inputs such as mesh size, engine power, length of the vessels, implementation of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and Bycatch Reduction Devices i.e Square Mesh Cod end and Turtle Excluder Devices (TED) etc.

It was agreed at the meeting that the contribution

of the exports from the capture fisheries cannot be increased without addressing the first mile connectivity gaps existing in all the maritime states. To put an effort in the direction of minimizing the post harvest losses and enhancing the unit value of realization, it was proposed to upgrade at least one fishing harbour in each maritime State as a pilot project for ensuring the availability of better quality fishes for export.

It is estimated that by improving the quality of the catch landed and handled properly, the unit value can be improved to a minimum of US\$ 1 per kg. At the present level of the sea caught material exports, one dollar increase in unit value can lead to an additional export revenue of around Rs. 7000 crore (US \$ 1000 million). The improvement in the quality and the quantity will also create avenues for more export-worthy raw material and thus bring in more export earnings.



Stakeholders meeting on Forming Fishing Harbour Management Society



Stakeholders meeting held at Gangolli fishing harbour

Gangolli is a fishing village in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district in Karnataka state. The village is bordered by the river to the east and by the Arabian Sea to the west. Situated at the mouth of an estuary where five rivers (Souparnika River, Varahi River, Kedaka River, Chakra River, and Kubja River) meet, Gangolli was earlier called "Panchagangavali". About 365 mechanized fishing vessels, 2,215 motorized boats and 1,045 non mechanized boats land their catches at Gangolli fishing harbour.

So it was decided to form a Harbour Management Society and as part of this, a stakeholders' meeting was organised on 6th December 2018 at the harbour. The meeting was convened as suggested by MPEDA and on the basis of directions from the Directorate of Fisheries. It was also a continuation of the efforts initiated at a meeting held at the Directorate of Fisheries, Bangalore on 31st October 2018 by Mr. S. Asok Kumar, Deputy Director, MPEDA, Mangalore with Mr. Ramacharya, Joint Director (Marine) regarding formation of fishing harbour management society at Gangolli Fishing Harbour.

The follow up meeting was held to gather suggestions from the stakeholders. Mr. M.L. Doddamani, Joint Director of Fisheries, Fishing harbours, Malpe, Mr. S. Asok Kumar, Deputy Director, MPEDA, Mangalore, Mr. N. Palani Kumar, Assistant Director, EIA, Mangalore, Mr.

K.A. Narayana, State Co-ordinator, NETFISH-MPEDA, Mangalore, Mr. Venkatesh, Port Officer, Kundapur Division, Mr. Ramesh Kharvi, Manager, K.F.D.C, Mr. Rathnakar, Branch Officer, S.K and Udupi District Fish Marketing Federation Ltd., Mr. Ramesh Kunder, President, Purse-seine Fisheries Primary Co-operative Society, Mr. Naga Kharvi, President, Gangolli Fishermen Cooperative Society, Mr. Manju Billava, President, Nada Doni Fishermen Cooperative Society, Mr. Basava Kharvi, President, Konkona Kharvi Marketing Committee, Mr. Lokesh Kharvi, President, Deep sea Trawl boat Fishermen Association, Mr. Pandu Kharvi, President, Labour Association, Mr. Moiddin, President, Trawl boat (370) Fishermen Association, Mr. Ravishankar, member, Fresh Fish Merchants Association, Mr. Manjunath Kharvi, Secretary, Trawl boat (Day trawlers) Fishermen Association, and Mrs. T. Anjanadevi, Assistant Director of Fisheries (Grade-1), Gangolli Fishing Harbour, Gangolli, were present for the meeting.

Mrs. T. Anjanadevi, Assistant Director of Fisheries (Grade-1), Gangolli Fishing Harbour, Gangolli welcomed those present and also introduced the all stakeholders of the Gangolli Fishing Harbour and their key activities to the officials.

Mr. S. Asok Kumar, Deputy Director, MPEDA in his address explained the importance for formation of the

FOCUS AREA

society similar to Munambam fishing harbour in Kerala to upgrade the Gangolli fishing harbour as a model fishing harbour in Karnataka along the international standards.

Mr. N. Palani Kumar, Assistant Director, EIA, Mangalore gave information on requirements of a model fishing harbour according to the Government of India's notifications and EU guidelines. Narayana K.A., SCO, NETFISH-MPEDA translated their presentation in Kannada and added that stakeholders should participate positively and actively in the society for the speedy up-gradation of the harbour citing the example of the Munambam Fishing Harbour.

Mr. M.L. Doddamani, Joint Director of Fisheries, Fishing harbours, Malpe, presided over the stakeholders meeting and he appreciated efforts taken by MPEDA in formation of harbour management society at Gangolli fishing harbour and requested the stakeholders to make use of the same to upgrade the fishing harbour.



Mr. Ramesh Kunder, President, the Purse-seine Fisheries Primary Co-operative Society, Gangolli said that all meetings should compulsorily be conducted at Gangolli and a minimum of five fishers should be present in each meeting. In response to this suggestion, the Deputy Director of MPEDA replied that a minimum of 15 days' notice would be served to each member ahead to the meeting date and the quorum for each meeting would be 5 members.

Mr. Ravishankar, Member, Fresh Fish Merchants Association, Gangolli suggested that the Deputy Commissioner, Udupi be the president of the society. However, others suggested that the Joint

Director of Fisheries, Fishing harbours, Malpe should be the Chairperson.

It was then decided to form the Harbour Management Society with Joint Director of Fisheries, Fishing harbours, Malpe as President, Deputy Director, Fisheries (Marine), Directorate of Fisheries, Bangalore as Vice-President, Assistant Director of Fisheries (Grade-1), Gangolli Fishing Harbour, Gangolli as Convener and Executive Engineer, Port and Fisheries, Udupi, Deputy Director, MPEDA, Mangalore, Assistant Director, EIA, Mangalore, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Udupi, State Coordinator, NETFISH-MPEDA, Mangalore, Port Officer, Kundapur Division, Gangolli, Manager, K.F.D.C, Gangolli, Branch Officer, S.K and Udupi Dist. Fish Marketing Fedn Ltd., Gangolli, presidents of Purse-seine Fisheries Primary Co-operative Society, Gangolli, Gangolli Fishermen Co-operative Society, Nada Doni Fishermen Co-operative Society, Gangolli, Konkankharvi Marketing Committee, Gangolli, Deep sea Trawl boat Fishermen Association, Gangolli, Labour Association, Gangolli and Trawl boat (370) Fishermen Association, Gangolli, member of Fresh Fish Merchants Association, Gangolli, Secretary, Trawl boat (Day trawlers) Fishermen Association, Gangolli and Senior Assistant Director of Fisheries, Udupi as members.

It was decided to send the minutes of the first stakeholders meeting to the Directorate of Fisheries to get formal approval from Government of Karnataka for formation of harbour management society at Gangolli. Another meeting of the stakeholders will be convened to finalise by laws of the society after the formal approval. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Mrs. T. Anjanadevi, Assistant Director of Fisheries (Grade-1), Gangolli.



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Training Programme on “Good Fishing Vessel Practices”



Demonstration of Tuna onboard processing by the Japanese team

A training programme on 'Good Fishing Vessel Practices' to crew of fishing vessels in Thengaipattinam Fishing Harbour, Tamil Nadu with emphasis on quality control and deck maintenance was conducted on 7th December 2018. NETFISH took up this special event based on the request from the State Fisheries office, Chinnamuttom.



Training on good fishing vessel practices by NETFISH at Thengaipattinam

Thengaipattinam is an emerging fishing harbour in Kanyakumari district with export potential landings. Good harvesting, handling and storage practices that minimize the risk of food safety problems help to preserve the value of the product need to be popularised.

As part of this initiative, 12 crew members of two mechanized fishing boats of Thengaipattinam were trained on 'Good Fishing Vessel Practices for handling Tuna On-board', with emphasis on the use of ice, hygienic handling, importance of dress code, proper cleaning of fishing vessels etc. Dr. Vinoth S. Ravindran, State Coordinator NETFISH, explained to the fishers hygienic handling practices to be followed onboard and also demonstrated the same.

A team of Japanese buyers visited the Thengaipattinam, Colachel and Muttom fishing harbours during the month. The delegates had a look at fishing activities at the harbours, looked over the fishing boats and chatted with the crew. Impressed by the quality of fish, they asked the fishermen about the price they get for

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the catch and were surprised knowing that the fishers are getting very low price for the tuna catch. They remarked that the fishers can gain more than double the price for the catch, provided the standards required in Japan are met. The delegates demonstrated to the fishers the procedure for cutting of Tuna, removing blood and packing in polythene covers.

The training offered by NETFISH to boat crew of Thengapattinam helped to a great extent in meeting the quality standards of Japanese buyers. They expressed their willingness to buy tuna from the deep sea fishermen of Thoothoor region in western Kanyakumari district, thus assuring a much better price.



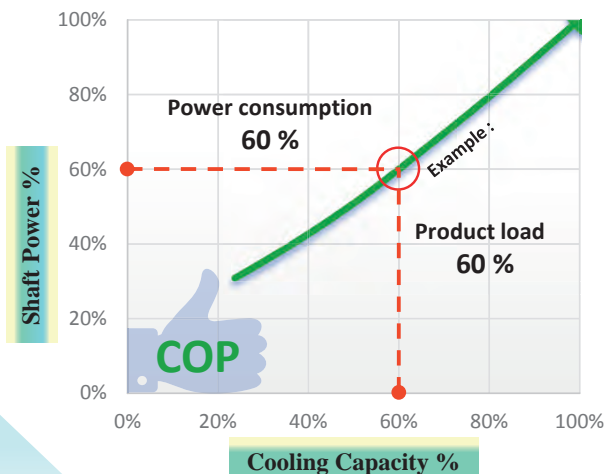
Demonstrating hygienic handling practices to the boat crew by the State Coordinator

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Skill Development programme on 'Production of Value Added Fishery Products'



Trainees with the products prepared during the training at Gajuwaka, AP

With the goal of improving the quality of life for the marginalized fisherfolk groups, skill development training on 'Production of Value Added Fishery Products' are being organized by NETFISH, especially for fisherwomen. Four such trainings were conducted in Kolkata, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in December.

A hands-on training programme on 'Value Added Fishery Products' was held on 5th December 2018 at Dhobabereya, Sofiabada, PurbaMedinipur, where 44 fisher women from different Self-Help Groups participated.

The State Coordinator briefly described the activities of NETFISH and the aim of the programme. He explained that hygienic value-added fish products can be prepared using low value fishes and can fetch better price.

Then he demonstrated the preparation of various products such as fish ball, fish pickle, prawn pickle, fish cutlet, coated prawn products such as breaded butterfly, breaded stretched shrimp, fish pakora etc. to the trainees. They were made to practice these processes too. Recipes of the above said products printed in Bangla were given to the participants. The training could instil confidence among the participants to take up these activities on commercial scale.

NETFISH, in association with NGO DFYWA, conducted two hands-on training sessions at Gajuwaka and Pedagantyada of Visakhapatnam on 21st and 22nd December 2018. About 60 participants from three self help groups including fisher women, fish traders and wet fish vendors actively participated in the training programme. Mrs. Ratna, a NETFISH trained trainee, explained to the participants about the recipe and procedure of making various value-added fishery products and the importance of hygiene while at work. Afterwards, all the participants were engaged in the preparation of fish cutlet, fish balls and prawn 65.

Two hands-on training programme sessions on preparation of value-added fishery products was conducted at Tharangampadi, Pazhaiyar on 6th and 7th December 2018 in the coordination of NGO FPO. A total of 30 beneficiaries including fish vendors and fisherwomen attended the training programme. Mr. M. Muruganandham, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Fish Processing Technology, Dr. MGR Fisheries College and Research Institute, was the resource person for the training programme. Both theoretical and practical aspects of preparation of value-added fishery products were covered in the training and training manuals printed in local language were given to the participants.



Sea Safety and Safe Fishing Training by NETFISH

NETFISH with the support of NGO, DFYWA, organised a training on Sea Safety to 30 numbers of active fishermen, boat owners and crew members of Visakhapatnam Fishing harbour on 20th November 2018. The programme started with an awareness meeting followed by the demonstration of sea safety equipment by a representative from one of the leading suppliers of sea safety and navigational equipment.



Sea Safety programme at Harne

Different kind of equipment available in the market like life buoy, life jacket and water proof torch were displayed

during the training. The demonstration on the correct way of wearing life jacket while fishing was made and a life buoy of size enough to save 5 fishermen at a time was also demonstrated to the participants. The system prevailing in certain countries, where the crews do not go for fishing without sufficient life saving equipment onboard, was also explained to the trainees. The availability and price of various life saving equipment were informed to the participants in the programme. In Maharashtra, awareness programmes were held on 17-18, November 2018 at Harne and Pajpandhari areas to give training and to create awareness among fishers about sea safety and safe navigation.

A presentation explaining on lifesaving equipment and navigational equipment like life jackets, DAT, life buoy, torch, radar reflectors, first aid box, radio RT equipment, GPS, safety beacon- EPIRB, SART etc. were done for the trainees. Rules of the road and various day and night signals were also highlighted during the class. Fishermen had given positive feedback and expressed their gratitude for conducting the programme. The programmes were planned and executed with the support of Manav Vikas Sevabhavi Sanstha, Thane (NGO).



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**Aerial view of MPEDA-RGCA
Multispecies Aquaculture Complex (MAC)**



AQUACULTURE SCENE

MPEDA - RGCA opens Multispecies Aquaculture Complex at Kochi

We need to design long term strategies for sustainable fisheries and to mitigate adverse impact of global warming. Satellite imagery and advanced technology like geo spatial mapping should be used to develop a protocol that need to be followed across the nation, said Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation.

He was speaking after the inauguration of the Multispecies Aquaculture Complex (MAC), a self sufficiency project of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) at Vallarpadom on 8th December 2018.

The MAC launched by MPEDA can increase the farmer's income exponentially. This is part of MPEDA's mandate to work on strategies to boost aquaculture. Despite having a coast line of 7,600 km, our nation is still facing challenges in feeding a population from fish production. Even though fish is a mainstay of food basket of India, we are not able to produce as much we need because of unsustainable practices, Mr. Prabhu said.

The Minister added that countries like Japan and Korea are looking for value-added fisheries product and meetings with potential investors from these fish importing countries and exporters here can be arranged to work out strategies. The Government of India has



accepted the new Agriculture Export Policy recently with the aim of increasing the total agriculture export, which includes those from horticulture and fisheries too, to 60 billion dollars in next five years, he said.

In her presidential address, Mrs. J. Mercykutty Amma, State Minister for Fisheries, Harbour Engineering and Cashew Industry, said that there should be a change in the mindset to enhance the fish production from the State.

Even though Kerala has 10 percent of the total water resources available in the country, it is using only 2 percent of it. Kerala is far behind Andhra Pradesh in productivity, despite the fact that it has an average fish consumption of 24 kg as against national average of 3.8 kg per person.

The Government of Kerala has taken a policy decision to double the inland fisheries production. The requirement right now is for 12 crore seeds. When this government

came to power, the capacity of the State was 2.5 crore seeds and this has been increased to 4.5 crore now. Attempts are on to revive the hatcheries that were damaged in the floods.

When the world is waking up to diseases in Vannamei seeds, it is now time to shift to organic farming of indigenous varieties of shrimp. The MAC facility will mark a big leap in food security and also address unemployment and boost economic growth, the Minister said.

Welcoming the dignitaries and audience to the function, Mr. K. S. Srinivas IAS, Chairman of MPEDA, said that the importance of fisheries sector in the nation can be realised from the 13-fold increase in production witnessed in the industry. It rose from 0.75 million tons in 1950-51 to 10.07 million ton during 2017-18. Besides this, 14 million people are dependent on fisheries activities for their livelihood and foreign exchange earnings is worth USD 7 billion.



AQUACULTURE SCENE



Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation inaugurates the Multispecies hatchery at Vallarpadam. From left: Dr. S. Kandan, Project Director, RGCA, Dr. A. Jayathilak IAS, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Kerala, Mr. K. S. Srinivas IAS, Chairman, MPEDA, Prof. K. V. Thomas, MP (Loksabha), Mr. Navneet Krishnan, MP (Rajya Sabha)

The shrimp farming started with tiger prawns in the 1980s and was expanding exponentially till 1995. The industry suffered a setback with white spot disease outbreak in 1995. The industry picked up again in 2009 with introduction of the Vannamei species. However, it is now time to look back to indigenous species like Black Tiger, as relying on single species, that too exotic species like Vannamei is not sustainable in long run. Now, nearly 70 percent of the shrimp farmed are

Vannamei species. Also, reports have started coming in from countries like Thailand, Vietnam and Philippines about disease outbreak among Vannamei in last five years. This is more relevant as Black Tiger is much in want in the US, European Union and Japan, Mr. Srinivas said.

The MAC is being launched to tap into the huge potential of aquaculture, of which only 10-15 percent is being



Mrs. J. Mercykutty Amma, Minister for Fisheries, Harbour Engineering and Cashew Industry, Govt. of Kerala inaugurating the Nursery unit at MAC

AQUACULTURE SCENE

utilised now. This facility is being built by MPEDA to promote other species like seabass, mud crab and GIFT along with Black Tiger.



Inaugural speech by Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry

Explaining about the design of MAC, Mr. Srinivas said that the pilot nursery was started in 2017, when the foundation stone for the complex, first of its kind, was laid. There are two components, one is a hatchery for

based system to freshwater-based system in a short time span.

The requirement of fresh water will be met from rainwater harvesting within the complex. The system is also ecologically safe, with a hi-tech effluent treatment plant and is equipped with a totally bio secure facility. The complex is free from use of any antibiotics, he said, adding that there are plans to use solar energy in future.

Tiger Shrimp hatchery has got quarantine section, reservoir water disinfection and filtration units, micro algae lab, larval rearing section, post larval section and packing section. The nurseries for fin fish and mud crab are also very important in farming. So, MPEDA has constructed HDPA lined bio secure nurseries to produce quality fingerlings of GIFT and Seabass and crablets, Mr. Srinivas said.

Addressing those present, Dr. A. Jayathilak IAS, former Chairman of MPEDA and present Principal Secretary to Government of Kerala, said that the MAC is testimony to the sense of commitment and dynamism shown by MPEDA. The foundation stone was laid just a year ago

and a multispecies hatchery of global standards was completed in eight acres at the cost of Rs. 8 crores, making it a matter of great pride and joy for the entire fisheries sector, he said.

Since the entire fisheries sector is now dependant on climate and weather, it is imperative that options of aquaculture are explored. More so with fish resources depleting in the sea and backwater and waterbodies being filled up extensively, said Mr. K. V. Thomas, Member of Parliament. The launching of MAC is a significant development in the fisheries sector, adding on to the claim of Kochi being fishing capital of India, said Mr. S. Sarma,

Member of Legislative Assembly.

While proposing the vote of thanks, Mr. B. Sreekumar, Secretary, MPEDA, said that inauguration of the Multispecies Aquaculture Complex is part of the Blue Revolution envisaged by the Prime Minister.



Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry inaugurates the Multispecies Aquaculture Complex by lighting the lamp

tiger shrimp and another is nurseries for fin fishes and mud crab. Entire complex has been designed after ensuring desirable salinity levels and availability of fresh water in the vicinity of the complex. It has been designed in such a way that other fin fish and shell fish can be produced. It can be converted to seawater-



Salient features of Multispecies Aquaculture Complex (MAC)

- Revival of Black Tiger Shrimp *p.monodon* Farming in our country.
- Diversification of Aquaculture in the west coast through the continues supply of quality seeds of mudcrab, Seabass, GIFT, pompano etc.
- Introduction of GIFT Tilapia in large scale to support Inland fresh water aquacultures which would cater to domestic market.
- Proximity to Cochin International Airport makes it advantageous for MAC for faster transportation of seeds to others parts of the country.
- MAC can act as model for establishing similar facilities along West Coast, especially in Konkan region, which is better suited than East Coast for cage culture of finfishes and is blessed with mangrove vegetation.
- Will give an impetus to the diversification of Indian aquaculture.

MPEDA opens Signature Stall at Kochi



Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry inaugurates the MPEDA signature stall

Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation inaugurated MPEDA's signature stall at MPEDA headquarters at Kochi on 8th December 2018. The MPEDA's signature stall named 'Seafood India' is a 1700 sq. ft. facility set up at MPEDA Head Office in Panampilly Nagar, selling and displaying value-

added marine products of exporters, besides exhibiting products developed by prominent fisheries research institutions such as CMFRI, CIFT and NIPPHATT. It also has literature narrating the activities of MPEDA and its societies such as NETFISH, RGCA and NaCSA. Enabled with information kiosks to browse the details about each product displayed in the stall, the stall provides information ranging from its production, processing, cooking and nutritional content also, making it a 'must visit' spot in the city.



Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry visits 'Seafood India', the signature stall of MPEDA

AQUACULTURE SCENE



Dignitaries observe the cobia fish from the nursery at MAC



Mrs. J. Mercykutty Amma, Minister for Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala releasing fish seeds to the Nursery in MAC



Dr. T. G. Manojkumar, Project Manager, MAC explains the design and operation of MAC to the dignitaries

AQUACULTURE SCENE



Union Minister and other dignitaries with disease free Tiger shrimp seeds at MAC



*Mr. S. Sarma, Member of Legislative Assembly
addresses the audience*



*Prof. K. V. Thomas, MP (Loksabha)
addresses the audience*

AQUACULTURE SCENE



Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Commerce Minister is being presented a memento by Mr. K. S. Srinivas IAS, Chairman, MPEDA



Chairman, MPEDA showing disease free postlarvae of Tiger shrimp to the Union Minister



Welcome speech by Mr. K. S. Srinivas IAS, Chairman, MPEDA

AQUACULTURE SCENE



Unveiling of the inauguration stone of MAC by the Union Minister



Dignitaries observing the Micro algae culture at MAC



Mr. B. Sreekumar, Secretary, MPEDA proposes Vote of thanks

Training Programme held on “Eco-friendly and Sustainable Shrimp Farming”



Mr. Maruti D. Yaligar, Deputy Director and Mr. Razak Ali, Assistant Director, MPEDA during the field visit at Datardi

Gujarat

The Regional Division of MPEDA at Valsad organised a five-day training programme on “Eco-friendly and Sustainable shrimp farming” at Rajula in Amreli district from 27th November 2018 to 1st December 2018, which 64 trainees participated. The objective of the training programme was to promote shrimp farming practice in coastal villages of Amreli district.

Trainees were registered under the supervision of Mr. Bhavin M. G., Field Supervisor. After registration of the trainees, Mr. Maruti D. Yaligar, Deputy Director, MPEDA, welcomed the participants and inaugurated the training programme. He explained the purpose of conducting the training and role of MPEDA for development of shrimp farming. He requested the trainees to attend the training regularly.

After inaugural session, MPEDA officials engaged classes on various technical aspects. Mr. Maruti D. Yaligar, delivered a lecture on 'Introduction to Shrimp Farming' and 'Role of MPEDA on Eco-friendly and sustainable shrimp farming'. Mr. Bhavin M.G. delivered

a lecture on 'Identification and life cycle of shrimp and pond preparation'.

Mr. Maruti D. Yaligar, Mr. Razak Ali and Mr. Bhavin led classes on seed selection, packing, transportation, acclimatization and stocking and water quality management, on site selection and farm construction on the next day.

Trainees were taken for field visit to shrimp farm of Mr. Abbas Jafari at Kathivadarvillage in Amreli district by Mr. Maruti D. Yaligar and Mr. Razak Ali next day. The practical aspects consisting of farm construction, management, bio-security measures, Good Management Practices (GMPs) and use of field equipment for testing of various water quality parameters were explained to trainees. Mr. Mohamad, Farm in Charge, explained Vannamei shrimp culture method to trainees, based on his experience.

On 30.11.2018, Mr. Maruti D. Yaligar and Mr. Bhavin, delivered lectures on land leasing policy and procedure for submission of application to Collector/Department of Fisheries for allotment of government land for

AQUACULTURE SCENE

development of shrimp farming, uses of Pro Biotic and misuse of antibiotics in Aquaculture, harvesting and post-harvest management, marketing and HACCP in aquaculture on 30th November 2018.

The last day also had officials of MPEDA engaging classes on remaining important technical aspects. Mr. Maruti D. Yaligar delivered lecture on diseases prevention and control, has delivered lecture on Aquaculture Authority Guideline and how to apply for License, on *L. vannamei* culture and bio security measures.

Mr. Maruti D. Yaligar addressed all the participants who successfully completed the training and distributed certificates after delivering the valedictory address.

The Regional Division of MPEDA at Valsad also organised a five-day training programme on the subject at APMC Hall, Khambhat, Anand from 17-21, December 2018 for the benefit of 64 candidates from Socially Economically Backward Class of Anand district. Mr. Maruti D. Yaligar, Deputy Director, MPEDA, inaugurated the training programme.



Distribution of certificates to the trainees

Mr. Maruti Yaligar, Mr. Bhavin M Gheravra, Field Supervisor, Mr. Razak Ali and Mr. M.A. Patil led classes on 'introduction to shrimp farming', 'role of MPEDA in eco-friendly and sustainable shrimp farming', 'identification and life cycle of shrimp and pond preparation', 'seed selection, packing, transportation, acclimatization and stocking', 'water quality management', 'on site selection and farm construction', 'land leasing policy and procedure for submission of application to Collector/ Department of Fisheries for allotment of government land for development of shrimp farming', 'uses of Pro-Biotic and misuse of antibiotics in aquaculture', 'harvesting and post-harvest management', 'marketing and HACCP in aquaculture', 'diseases prevention

and control', 'Aquaculture Authority Guideline and how to apply for license on *L. vannamei* culture' and 'bio-security measure' at the programme.

The trainees were taken on a field visit to the shrimp farm of Mr. Virendra Sinh Parmar in Vadgam village, Anand district by Mr. Maruti D. Yaligar and Mr. Bhavin on 20th December 2018. The practical aspects consisting of farm construction, management, bio security measures, Good Management Practices (GMPs) and use of field equipment for testing of various water quality parameters were explained to trainees. Mr. Nikhil, Farm in Charge, shared his experience and explained Vannamei shrimp culture method to trainees.

Certificates were distributed to all 64 trainees, who successfully completed the training programme.

West Bengal

The MPEDA Regional Division at Kolkata also organised a three-day training programme from 18-20, December 2018 on "Eco Friendly And Sustainable Shrimp Farming" for general trainees at Kanmari, Sandeshkhali, North 24 Parganas District.

The main objective was to educate the farmers on adoption of farming methods for eco friendly and sustainable in aquaculture with special emphasis on diversification in culture practices. The programme was attended by 24 farmer trainees.

Mr. Johnson D'Cruz, Assistant Director, MPEDA, Regional Division, Kolkata, inaugurated the programme.

During the three days' training programme, various talks and lectures related to the subject were handled Mr. Johnson D'Cruz, Assistant Director, MPEDA, Regional Division, Kolkata, Mr. Pradip Maity, Field Manager, NaCSA, Mr. MahsinDhali, Field Extension Officer, Sandeshkhali and Mr. Somanath Manna, Assistant Manager, CP Feeds, Hasnabad.

On the last day detailed discussions was followed up with interactive sessions where participants got chances to clarify their doubts. Certificates and stipend were distributed to those who successfully completed the training.



Awareness campaign against the use of banned antibiotics



Dr. P. Sreenivasulu, Assistant Director, MPEDA explained about the introduction of SIMP by USA to farmers at Sreekurmam village, Gara Mandal, Srikakulam district

Andhra Pradesh

The Sub Regional Division of MPEDA at Bhimavaram organised a one-day awareness campaign against the use of banned antibiotics in aquaculture at Sreekurmam, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh on 24th January 2019.

The programme in which 34 farmers and officials participated, was organised to create awareness among the farmers against the use of banned antibiotics in aquaculture.

Dr. P. Sreenivasulu, Assistant Director, MPEDA welcomed the gathering and requested the farmers not to use any banned antibiotics in shrimp culture. He also requested the farmers to get the seed only from registered hatcheries. He also explained about the introduction of SIMP by USA, schemes of MPEDA and requested all farmers to maintain the Pond Data Register for traceability.

Mr. G. Suresh, Lead Aqua farmer, Sreekurmam, appreciated the MPEDA effort to conduct an awareness programme against the use of banned antibiotics and explained about schemes of MPEDA by officials.

Mr. L.K. Patnaik, Field Supervisor, explained about the farm enrolment and requested all farmers should enroll with MPEDA for betterment of our shrimp export. The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Mr. L.K.

Patnaik, Field Supervisor, MPEDA.

Maharashtra

The Sub Regional Division of MPEDA at Ratnagiri also organised two awareness campaign programmes – on 'Abuse of antibiotics in Aquaculture' and 'Diversification of Aquaculture' at the farm site of Mrs. Neeta Vaiti, Bakale village in Ratnagiri District on 30th December 2018.

Dr. Vishnudas R. Gunaga, Junior Technical Officer, MPEDA, Sub Regional Division, Ratnagiri, coordinated the programme and explained the purpose of conducting such programmes.

He also explained the role of MPEDA in the development of aquaculture and stressed the need to move towards making the sector free of banned antibiotic use. He presented the list of banned antibiotics and chemicals in aquaculture. He also explained the consequences of using the same.

In the talk on diversification of aquaculture, Dr. Gunaga detailed the farming techniques involved in seabass, mud crab and tilapia etc. He took the participants to MPEDA's mud crab demo pond at Bakale and demonstrated the sampling of mud crabs. Related literatures on antibiotics and diversification of aquaculture in local language were distributed to all the 14 participants, who attended the programme.

AQUACULTURE SCENE



A view of the programme on Diversification in aquaculture

Farmer's Meet on Aquaculture Enrolment and Quality Shrimp Production Practices Through Certification

Regional Division, MPEDA, Kolkata organised a session on "Farm Enrolment And Quality Shrimp Production Practices Through Certification" on 12th December 2018 at Nagendra Primary School, SimuliaKalibari, Hasnabad, North 24 Parganas District for the aquaculture farmers in the district.

The meeting started with welcome address by Mr. Archiman Lahiri, Deputy Director, Regional Division, MPEDA, Kolkata. He talked about the problems faced by the aqua farming community on a whole and farmers in particular.

He made some suggestions on overcoming the difficulties as well. Mr. Ramakrishna Ghosh, President, Hasnabad Panchayat, urged those present to follow Good Management practices in shrimp farming. Mr. Kamal Nayak and Mr. Mrinal Kanti Ghosh, progressive shrimp farmers, also spoke. Mrs. Nandita Mallick, FEO, Hasnabad block, highlighted the works done by State Department of Fisheries for betterment of aqua farming community.

Later Mr. Archiman Lahiri, Deputy Director, made a technical presentation on price fall of shrimp across

the world with special reference to India and West Bengal. He also highlighted the need of the hour like traceability of the aquaculture product. Enrolment of aqua farms is a prerequisite for getting traceability. He also made presentation on Seafood Import Monitoring Programme (SIMP) of USA, which is to be implemented from January 1, 2019. US commerce requires the traceability of seafood imported to their country in digital form which only MPEDA in India can provide.

Mr. Johnson D' Cruz, Assistant Director, Regional Division, MPEDA, Kolkata made a presentation on diversification aquaculture. The species like Asian sea sea bass, Gift Tilapia, Cobia, Mangrove crab were suggested as alternate species for shrimp aquaculture in India. He also made presentation on certification schemes designed by MPEDA.

The meet was attended by more than 140 farmers who were enthusiastic about hearing the developments in the field of aquaculture. One-to-one interactions between exporters and farmers were also held as part of the meet. The meet was concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Johnson D' Cruz, Assistant Director, MPEDA Regional Division, Kolkata.

Exporters geared up to comply with SIMP regulations on shrimp by US



Indian exporters are gearing up to comply with the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) regulations on shrimp by USA. SIMP will be enforced on Indian shrimp exports to USA from January 1, 2019 and this has unnerved the exporters.

SIMP requires traceability information on imported seafood from point of capture to the point of first sale in the US in order to thwart Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activity. It is mandatory for foreign shrimp products to be accompanied by harvest and landing data and for importers to maintain chain of custody records for shrimp imports entering the USA.

"There has been an increase in compliance cost as documentary evidence needs to be provided for every container regarding its traceability for exports to United States. It is too early to say the impact of SIMP on exports to United States. We have already initiated the documentation of shipments targeting the SIMP that will come into effect from January 1, 2019", said Aditya Dash, managing director, Ram's Assorted

Cold Storage Ltd, a leading export company in Odisha.

With the implementation of the new monitoring program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of USA gets authority to perform audits of the harvest and chain of custody information provided by importers.

Trade sources say that smaller exporters may find it extremely difficult to ship to United States- the largest market of the India seafood exports sector valued at \$7 billion.

"It is a move of the Trump administration to provide level playing to its domestic producers. However, USA shrimp production is not sufficient to meet the demand of their market. It is a kind of non tariff barrier imposed by US to discourage imports", said another exporter. US is the major market for Indian seafood with a share of 32 per cent. In the last fiscal, USA imported seafood worth \$2,320.05 million. Frozen shrimp is the principal item exported to USA with a share of 95.03 per cent in dollar value.

- Business Standard



Value Addition to marine products critical, say experts

Value-addition to marine products is critical if India is to compete in the international market, as mostly only raw material is being exported, according to experts. They were speaking here at a one-day workshop organised by the Marine Products Exports Development Authority (Mpeda) on Thursday.

T Dola Sankar, Director (Marketing), Mpeda, said that in India only 6 per cent value-addition is being done, in comparison with 65 per cent in Thailand.

"We have to cover a long ground. We have made very little headway in the past decade. AP leads in marine exports and AP exporters and processors should take the initiative in the matter."

V Padmanabham, National President, Seafood

Exporters' Association of India (SEAI), said there was no question that value-addition should be taken on large scale and the bigger exporters should take the lead, making use of the Government schemes. He also urged the Union government to accord agriculture status to fisheries, a long-pending demand, and to address the other pending issues.

P Paul Pandian, Development Commissioner (Fisheries), in the Union Ministry of Agriculture, said that the ₹3,000 crore allotted by the government under the umbrella blue revolution scheme should be used by exporters and processors. YS Prasad, CEO of the State-run AP Food Processing Society, said the government had released ₹160 crore subsidy to 30 new processing units in the past four years, adding a capacity of 1.5 lakh tons.

- Business Line 

Bluefin tuna sells for record \$3 million in a Tokyo fish auction: Report

A 613-pound bluefin tuna sold for more than \$3 million at an action in Tokyo's new fish market, setting a record, Reuters reports. The giant fish was purchased by Kiyoshi Kimura, who owns the Sushizanmai sushi restaurant chain.

"The tuna looks so tasty and very fresh, but I think I did too much," Kimura reportedly said outside the market after his purchase. "I expected it would be between 30 million (\$277,213) and 50 million yen (\$462,022), or 60 million yen (\$554,426) at the highest, but it ended up

five times more," he said, according to Reuters. The restaurateur had previously held the record for "top price paid for a single fish at the new year's auction" for six consecutive years until 2017, when another restaurateur bested him.

This year's record-setting sale marked the first New Year's auction at Tokyo's Toyosu marketplace, which opened after the Tsukiji fish market shuttered in 2018 to allow parking for the 2020 Olympic games, Reuters notes.

- Business Standard



In a first, octopus spotted in Narmada river

In a first along the Indian coastline, an octopus species was recently spotted in the estuarine zone of Narmada river, said scientists. Marine biologists confirmed that there were no previous reports of octopuses being spotted in inland waters along the Indian coastline.

Octopus is a marine species that is spotted up to the depth of 50m and is known to inhabit coastal sea waters. It is rarely observed in the estuarine brackish waters.

Seventeen specimens of the *Cistopus indicus*, commonly known as the old woman octopus, were identified by scientists from the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) Vadodra, Gujarat, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The octopuses were spotted during CIFRI's routine survey as a part of a fish catch at Bhadbhut village, 35kms off the Gulf of Khambhat on 16th December 2018. CIFRI scientists declared their findings on Friday. "According to data collated by us since 1988, in India, octopuses are caught mainly as by-catch in trawl nets used for shrimp trawling, shore seines, boat seines, hooks, lines and stake nets, but they have never been caught within brackish estuarine water bodies," said Dr Dibakar Bhakta, Scientist, CIFRI Vadodra.

The 17 specimens, which are 190-320mm in length, are about the size of a human arm. The maximum length of the species was 325mm with a weight of 56.2g. The maximum length of this species along the Indian coastline was 600mm from the Bay of Bengal, said Bhatka. There are around 200 species of Octopus reported across the world and 38 species reported from Indian seas.

According to Bhakta and his team, the salinity of the Bhadbhut and adjacent Mahegam region was in the range of 18-20 parts per thousand (ppt) during December. The salinity of water in the ocean is around 35 ppt. The mixture

of seawater and fresh water in estuaries has salinity ranging between 0.5 and 35 ppt.

"Initial analysis and high salinity show that ingress of high tide water may have allowed this marine species into the estuary. However, considering the low quantity of marine fish catch in these brackish waters between 2017 and 2018, environmental disturbances and anthropogenic alterations to their habitat can be another cause for their displacement," said Bhakta.

Deepak Apte, director, Bombay Natural History Society, said marine species, mostly fish, are known to move into brackish waters for breeding mostly around winter months. "However, there are no previous records of octopuses depicting such behaviour."

Independent experts who have carried out research on octopuses also said high tide water had most probably brought the species to the estuary. "It is extremely rare to spot such a find and further studies need to ascertain the level of water during low and high tide and species diversity in both phases," said Vinay Deshmukh, marine biologist and former scientist, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

Octopus made up merely 0.72% of the total molluscan resource (61688 tons) that landed in Gujarat during 2017. "This is clearly the first documentation of an octopus found along inland waters in India. It is unusual for such marine benthic species, irrespective of their size to survive in salinity ranging between 18-20 ppt. We need to study whether similar reports have occurred from other parts of the country to ascertain habitat changes," said E Vivekanandan, former principal scientist and national consultant, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and currently heading the Bay of Bengal project on biodiversity conservation.

- Hindustan Times



India, China disagree with US on curbing fishery subsidies

India and China have demanded protection of livelihood of small fisherfolk at the World Trade Organization (WTO) but the US has cautioned against allowing developing countries to continue with their sops as negotiations on curbing fishery subsidies picked up pace last week.

While many WTO members, at a recent meeting of heads of delegation in Geneva, expressed their intent to conclude negotiations on the issue by 2019-end, there is no agreement yet on a special dispensation for developing nations, a Geneva-based official told BusinessLine.

The US, in its representation, said 14 of the top 25 marine catch producers in the world were developing countries and one least-developed country. It said members should thus think carefully about providing carve outs exempting developing countries from provisions to discipline how much subsidies they provide their fisheries sector.

New Delhi, however, took a different view from the US and emphasised that a WTO agreement should consider needs of marginal fisherfolk. "As a developing country, India said it provides minimal subsidies to fisherfolk who depend on the sector for sustenance. It said it wanted an equitable and balanced outcome," the official said.

Providing carve outs

India's stress that it provides minimal subsidies to its fishers and should therefore be not subject to

caps on subsidies is important given the fact that most developed countries are averse to extending carve-outs to China. China, which too would qualify for special dispensation extended to developing countries, gives subsidies to its fishers several times more than India.

China, in its intervention, said special and differential treatment (for developing countries) should be an integral part of the negotiations. It said, nevertheless, that it will undertake its "due obligation within its capacities".

The discussions on curbing fishery subsidies is led by an informal grouping of members called 'Friends of Fish' (including Argentina, Australia, Chile, Colombia, New Zealand, Norway, Iceland, Pakistan, Peru and the US) which argues that subsidies to the fisheries sector — estimated at \$14-20.5 billion annually — have led to over-capacity and over-fishing.

At the Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December last year, members agreed to work towards adopting an agreement on disciplines that prohibit subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by the next Ministerial Conference in 2019. Although it has now been decided that the next Ministerial Conference will be in June 2020, the 2019 deadline for the fisheries subsidies negotiations will be upheld and that the General Council could take any necessary decision.

- Business Line 



Hatchery Seed Production & Farming of Cobia Initiatives

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Asian aquaculture: trends for 2019

Every year, aquaculture increases its contribution to global seafood production. The sector generated 110.2 million tons in 2016, valued at US \$243.5 billion and constituting 53 per cent of world seafood supply. According to FAO data, 90 per cent of production volume was produced in Asia. To maximise investment growth while minimising ecological impacts, it pays to identify and analyse upcoming opportunities.

Western approaches

The growing middle-class in China, India and other developing nations is boosting demand for higher-value western seafood such as Atlantic salmon – traditionally farmed or caught wild in colder regions. China, in particular, is becoming a major salmon importer, with 70,000 tons of salmonids consumed yearly, mostly imported from Chile, Denmark and Norway. To reduce import dependence and prices, Chinese farmers are attempting to raise salmon and other temperate fish like trout.

Among the most ambitious salmonid projects is a US \$143.9 million farm currently operating in the Yellow Sea using a 30-metre high and 180-metre wide cage. This is the world's largest submersible cage and can change depth from four to 50 metres for optimal temperature. Operator Wanzefeng Fishery aims to produce 1,600 tons of salmon by 2020, with plans to eventually upscale production to 20,000 tons yearly. Another government-backed farm aims to annually produce 20,000 tons in an inland recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) facility in Ningbo, eastern China.

There are ever-growing opportunities for collaboration as many of these projects are conducted with the aid of European aquaculture experts and technology providers. Chinese companies are also considering making direct investments in foreign salmon producers, with distribution and marketing eyed as priorities. This makes sense since China is poised to be the world's top salmon consumer.

Smarter shrimp farms

Southeast Asian shrimp farming has had mixed fortunes in recent years after growing from less than a million tons in 1995, to 7.8 million tons by 2016. Unfortunately, traditional shrimp farms are among the most destructive to brackish water and marine

ecosystems, particularly mangrove forests.

An increasingly popular solution is to grow shrimp using recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) techniques. In Thailand, Charoen Pokphand Foods is looking to produce all its whiteleg shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*) in indoor RAS by 2023, dramatically reducing both water consumption and pollution while minimising the risk of diseases which typically come with water pumped in from nearby rivers.

According to CP Foods executive vice-president Premsak Wanuchsoontorn: "In the future, shrimp farms will be more dependent on automation to save man-hours and reduce water contamination."

More Asian shrimp firms are following suit, realising that RAS, along with automation, can raise yields. Canadian technology provider XpertSea, on the other hand, is pioneering AI-led facility management systems to optimize production, reduce disease outbreaks and reliably meet production dates. The system uses optics and machine learning. "This is a new concept which has the potential to unlock significant yields for shrimp and fish farmers. It's about making more with less," notes CEO Valeria Robitaille.

More advances in technology aim to make shrimp farmers more profitable while controlling impacts.

The rise of the carnivores

Formerly dominated by low-trophic herbivorous fish like carp, which thrive on algae and plants, aquaculture in Asia continues to move towards the intensive farming of higher-value carnivores like shrimp, grouper and tuna, as well as salmon, according to FAO statistics. Though usually more profitable, these predators also have higher feed conversion ratios, ranging from about 2:1 for salmon (meaning two kilograms of fish meal is used to add a kilogram of weight) to upwards of 18:1 for bluefin tuna.

This means that instead of simply augmenting global seafood production, these forms of aquaculture may continue to eat into wild seafood stocks, since low-value pelagic species – loosely-termed as trash fish – are continuously needed to sustain farmed stocks of high-value predators. With wild-capture fishery volume having stalled since the late 1980s, this is a major concern because dwindling wild stocks will translate to higher feed prices.

NEWS SPECTRUM

Feeding the fish

Farming operations aim to produce the most seafood in a given volume of water in the shortest time at the least cost. The first aquaculture systems were simple ponds which could sustain herbivorous species like carps with little or no additional input and in Asia these extensive farming systems remained popular until recently. Now, however, there is a strong decline in the share of non-fed cultured seafood.

Though the feeds for these carp are plant-based and have lower environmental footprints than fishmeal-based feeds, plant-based feeds require large tracts of land, plus significant amounts of water, fertiliser and fuel for processing and transport. Among the plants used for herbivore feeds are rice, corn, soy, plus floating vegetation like water hyacinth and duckweed. This shift is resulting in big opportunities for feed manufacturers and companies that are developing alternative feed ingredients that come with lower environmental impact, such as yeast and algae which can synthesise omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids.

Other attempts to reduce dependence on trash fish for feeds are being made. A Stanford University-led study revealed that using byproducts discarded from Chinese seafood processing plants can reduce the country's dependence on trash fish by between 30 and 70 per cent – especially when ingredients like algae or yeast are added to the mix.

Thailand's CP Foods successfully lowered the fishmeal content of its shrimp feeds from 35 per cent to just 7 per cent as of 2017 by sourcing from a combination of seafood industry byproduct plants and certified fishmeal fisheries.

Conclusions

All these trends clearly reveal the ever-increasing environmental footprint of Asian aquaculture. With China and Southeast Asia responsible for up to 90 per cent of global production, this can be dangerous if left unchecked – but major players have realised this and are taking steps to curb their ecological impacts.

The Chinese government, for example, is attempting to shift from inland freshwater aquaculture to offshore mariculture while cracking down on illegal and polluting aquaculture operations. In a bold move, it ordered the removal of all 45,000 crab cages in eastern China's Taihu Lake by December 2018 to protect the lake's water quality, while also encouraging operators to shift to open-sea mariculture. Vietnam is considering the merits of extensive rather than intensive aquaculture, which produces lower seafood yields but has less impacts on both riverine and mangrove habitats.

Aquaculture is both growing and maturing. These emerging trends show how farmers, feed producers and investors can plan and prepare for the coming year.

- The Fish Site



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Jammu gets first hygienic fish marketing complex

The first hygienic retail and wholesale fish marketing complex equipped with all latest facilities like deep freezers, air conditioning, etc., was Friday thrown open here. Asgar Hassan Samoon, principal secretary in animal, sheep and fisheries department, inaugurated the complex. He said this market will cater to the need for sale in an organised way for the private entrepreneurs, as well as the fishermen community.

Samoon had a detailed tour of the facility and asked for its optimal utilisation. He stressed on providing best and satisfactory customer service besides providing best facilities including ice plant for preservation of fish stocks to the sellers. Saying that hygiene shall be priority, officer asked for regular monitoring of material being sold at the market.

"We will ensure that a dedicated team under the supervision of JMC health officer will check the food items being sold here on daily basis. Public

health is our priority and it will be maintained as one of the well-organised and well-maintained fish markets in India," Samoon told officials.

He asked officers for segregation and disposal of waste on scientific lines at the facility. The JMC commissioner assured the principal secretary of full support in dealing with the waste and other issues at the facility.

Samoon also asked for diversifying the role of the market for ease of customers and making it model one-stop facility of food items with the introduction of meat, eggs, cheese and chicken in wholesale and retail here. "A diagnosis laboratory will also be setup at the facility," he said. He asked officials and fish traders to keep different varieties of fish including famed trout fish of Kashmir for fish food lovers.

Fish traders' delegation thanked Samoon for the facility which would help the sector and boost economy of the people associated with the trade.

- Business Standard



North India emerging as big market for seafood

The northern region, predominantly a non-vegetarian market for poultry and meat products, is witnessing a strong demand for seafood. Out of the total meat products' sale, seafood contributes 10-20%. The absence of cold chain logistics and storage facilities is restricting the desired growth. The total market size of meat products in the northern region comprising Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and J&K is pegged at around Rs 5,000 crore.

To cash in on the demand, many startups dealing in raw and value-added meat products have started operations in the region. The high demand for fresh meat and lack of quality and organised supply chain has helped the growth of startups delivering meat and

seafood. "The northern region has a huge potential for seafood but the market is under-served. Also, low availability is restricting the growth. Logistics infrastructure is also acting as a deterrent to the growth of seafood market. We already have operations in Haryana in the NCR region and only last month expanded operations in Panchkula, Chandigarh and Mohali. We have already started receiving fantastic response," said Licious founders Vivek Gupta and Abhay Hanjura.

The market is highly unorganised and fragmented. While 80% of the company's total sales comprise raw meat, the rest is of value-added products. The company has a customer base of 3 lakh across Bangalore, Hyderabad

NEWS SPECTRUM

and Delhi-NCR. Currently, the brand clocks over 5,500 orders per day with over 90% repeat customers.

E-retailer Bigbasket has also added seafood in their product portfolio — in frozen and canned form. "We are getting very good response from customers in the North, especially for seafood," said an executive employed with Bigbasket. Gurugram-based firm Zappfresh procures meat and fish from local farms, process it and then customise according to the demand of customers and deliver at their doorstep. Founded in early 2015, Zappfresh delivers chicken, mutton, seafood, cold

cuts and ready-to-eat kebabs and sausages. Currently delivering in Delhi-NCR, the company plans to expand its footprint.

According to officials, the North region has a huge potential as in NCR Region alone, the total market for meat products is pegged at Rs 15,000 crore. Launched in 2015, another Bengaluru-based startup FreshtoHome, an online marketplace for fresh fish and livestock produce, sources products directly from farmers and supplies them to customers in Delhi-NCR besides Bengaluru, Chennai, Trivandrum, Cochin and Thrissur.

-The Tribune



Global shrimp supply will remain high for foreseeable future

The glut in the global supply of shrimp that persisted throughout 2018 will remain in 2019, as cold storage facilities in the United States continue to have supplies lasting months in storage.

A panel of experts at the Global Seafood Market Conference in Coronado, California on 17th January 2019 said cold storage facilities in the U.S. had, at times, 30 percent more shrimp in storage in 2018 than they did in 2017.

In addition, the panel predicted that the reserves will not be drawn down significantly in 2019. The primary reason for that is production of shrimp in India, which panelists said will remain close to its record high of 740,000 metric tons (MT), with production in other countries starting to increase as well.

"It all comes back to, 'What are we going to do with all this shrimp?'" said Jeff Goldberg, president of Fortune Imports.

Estimates indicate that there's 290 million pounds of shrimp currently in cold storage facilities in the U.S., representing a supply that, with no further production or imports, could last more than three months.

That high amount of supply in storage is coupled with increasing supply coming from countries like

Ecuador. Between 2013 and 2018, production of shrimp in Ecuador more than doubled, going from 219,412 MT to 471,026 MT. Ecuador and India aren't the only countries with increasing supply. Indonesia, Vietnam, and Mexico also saw growth. The most dramatic growth occurred in Guatemala, which has consistently increased between 30 to 40 percent year-over-year.

"In the last two years, Guatemala has added 87 farms," said Bill Hoenig, market development director for Best Aquaculture Practices. In the last few years, that production has been 25,000 kilograms per cycle, per hectare, and running three cycles a year.

"They're adding 25 million pounds to the kitty," Hoenig said. "It's these little micro things, it happens here it happens there, but it's an indication of what can happen." In the past, high shrimp producing countries like Vietnam faced the possibility that a disease – such as white spot – would cause dramatic reductions in production. Rapid increases in the understanding of genetics and farming techniques have largely mitigated outbreaks in recent years.

Another factor influencing future production levels is lower prices as a result of the glut of supply. That's causing producers to cut back on expansion plans, with farmers in India, particularly, facing obstacles. "The lower prices are definitely tampering some of the expansion plans that some of the farmers have, that some of the plants have," Jeff Stern, vice president of purchasing for Censea, said.

- SeaFoodSource



Tamil Nadu to formulate new brackishwater aquaculture policy



Eminent agriculture scientist Dr M S Swaminathan shares a moment with Minister of Fisheries D Jayakumar during the World Brackishwater Aquaculture Conference in the city on Tuesday | DEBADATTA MALLICK

The State government on Tuesday indicated that it would be bringing out a brackish water aquaculture policy and was in the process of identifying the potential areas, where aquaculture can be promoted in a big way. The task of area mapping has been entrusted to the Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA).

K Gopal, principal secretary to the department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries, told Express, on the sidelines of a farmers' conclave organised as part of the World Brackishwater Aquaculture Conference, that rough estimates suggest there are about 50,000 hectares in the State where aquaculture can be taken up.

"However, a scientific study has to be carried out to arrive at the exact number. We have asked CIBA to conduct the micro-level study in all 13 coastal districts of the State. The initial data set will be ready in six months after which a comprehensive policy will be evolved," Gopal said.

Tamil Nadu is gifted with a long coastline of 1,076 km with hundreds of acres of estuaries, backwaters and salt affected areas, where brackishwater aquaculture can be taken up. Gopal said Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules do not permit aquaculture activities within two km from High Tide Line (HTL). "Also, we have to approach cautiously as some of the

other States faced serious environmental concerns. Besides, Tamil Nadu is vulnerable to sea erosion and seawater intrusion. So, scientific and sustainable practices factoring environmental concerns should be adopted," he said.

K K Vijayan, director, CIBA, told Express that Tamil Nadu has huge potential and was a leader in brackishwater aquaculture in the past. "It would take one year to complete the digital mapping. We want to conduct a season-to-season mapping where we can assess water depth, salinity levels and temperature in a particular waterbody. This will give a realistic outlook and help policy-makers take appropriate decision," he said.

Fisheries Minister D Jayakumar and eminent farming scientist MS Swaminathan said fisheries played a key role in achieving nutrition security. B Meenakumari, chairperson of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), said there are about 3.9 million hectares of estuary, and 3.5 million hectares of brackish waters available in India. In addition, 1.2 million hectares of coastal areas and 8.5 million hectares of salt affected areas are available, which are potential areas for aquaculture. Currently, only 1.94 million hectares are under culture, of which 1.67 million hectares are in shrimp farming alone. Out of total \$900 million global turnover in imports and exports, India's share is only \$1.7 million.

- The New Indian Express 

India presses China to import more Indian products to reduce trade deficit

India on Tuesday pressed China to import more Indian goods, especially pharmaceutical and IT products, as top commerce officials of the two countries held talks in Beijing on the widening trade deficit, which last year crossed USD 57 billion.

Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan also discussed the progress made under Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) during his talks with Wang Shouwen, Vice Minister of China's Ministry of Commerce, the Indian Embassy here said in a press release.

Wadhawan on Monday held talks with Zhang Jiwen, Vice Minister of General Administration of China Customs (GACC) which is responsible for examining market access and quarantine issues for India's agriculture and allied products.

The two sides held a detailed discussion on the widening trade deficit, the press release said. The trade deficit in 2018, according to Chinese official data, climbed to USD 57.86 billion from USD 51.72 billion in 2017 in about USD 95.54 total bilateral trade.

India's exports to China went up to USD 18.84 billion, an increase of 15.2 per cent compared to 2017. A series of recent moves by China spoke of liberalisation of sale of foreign drugs, especially the cancer curing medicines, but no announcement was made on allowing the sale of Indian drugs in Chinese market.

The expectation of China stepping up efforts to permit market access for Indian pharmaceuticals and IT was high since last year's informal Wuhan summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In his talks, Wadhawan pressed for more actions from the Chinese side to support and promote exports of Indian products to China, the press release said. He also pitched for more market access to Indian IT companies, pharmaceuticals and agriculture products, including major commodities like sugar, rice, milk and milk products. He noted that as a large producer of these commodities, India can emerge as a most

reliable source for China, it said.

His talks also focussed on the progress of the Regional Economic Partnership (RCEP) which is a free trade area (FTA) made up of 10 ASEAN members (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos and Vietnam) and their six FTA partners, India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Prior to the Vice Ministerial-level talks, Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce and Chief Negotiator of India for RCEP, also held "extensive discussions" on RCEP on Monday with Yang Zhengwei, Deputy Director General, International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, China, the press release said.

RCEP aims at liberalising norms for trade in goods and services and boost investment among 16-member countries. The last round of talks were held in in Hyderabad last year.

China is pushing for the RECP after US President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Facing threat of cheap imports from China, officials say India is specially seeking to protect its advantages in services and stagger the phase-out of tariffs over a longer period in the case of China, to allow Indian industry more time to adjust.

RCEP is the most important ongoing regional trade agreement which aims at integrating major economics in Asia, which constitutes 30 per cent of world GDP and 45 per cent of world population, the press release said.

Negotiations were conducted across all the three pillars of RCEP, i.e., goods, services and investment. Bilateral negotiations between India and China are crucial for early conclusion of RCEP negotiations, it said.

On Monday, India and China signed a protocol for exports of Indian tobacco leaves to China. Since Wuhan summit, the two countries signed protocols on exports

NEWS SPECTRUM

of non-basmati rice and exports of fish meal and fish oil.

GACC also approved 6 Indian mills to export rapeseed meal to China. This recent period has thus seen significant progress in market access for six agriculture and allied products from India, the press release said.

Wadhawan requested the GACC to expedite market access for other products like okra, soya bean, bovine meat and dairy products, it said.

He also had a brief interaction with the Indian IT and pharma companies present in China.

..... - The Economic Times



Secretary, DADF applauds the accomplishments of ICAR-CIFT



Secretary, DADF interacting with scientists

Mr. Tarun Shridhar IAS, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries (DADF) under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, visited ICAR-CIFT, Kochi along with Mr. K. S. Srinivas IAS, Chairman, MPEDA, Kochi. Recalling his long association with fisheries sector, the Secretary lauded the research accomplishments of ICAR-CIFT for its outstanding research in harvest and post-harvest sectors in fisheries. He suggested for pluralistic convergence of different agencies working in the same line to bring more visibility in the fisheries sector and to check unnecessary wastage of resources due to duplication of work.

Citing the excellent contribution of ICAR in introducing the Vannamei prawn culture and fish disease surveillance, he urged the stakeholders from both Union and State governments for greater collaboration to strengthen the blue economy initiative of the government.

Later, he had an effective interaction with scientists

from ICAR-CIFT, ICAR-CMFRI and CIFNET regarding the marine fishing regulations, responsible fisheries and food safety issues. He advised that MPEDA should take a lead to bring together all the stakeholders in the sector on quarterly basis to discuss about the strategic research developments in fisheries matching with need of the hour. Earlier, Dr. Ravishankar C. N., Director, ICAR-CIFT welcomed the gathering and highlighted the salient research achievements of ICAR-CIFT and their successful dissemination in the field.

He sought the intervention of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) to disseminate users' friendly potential technologies of ICAR-CIFT across the country with the help of NFDB. Mr. Srinivas in his remarks appreciated the contributions of ICAR-CIFT and ICAR-CMFRI and assured all possible support for the growth of the fisheries sector.

Dr. T. V. Sathianandan, Director in charge of ICAR-CMFRI and Mr. A. K. Chaudhary, Director, CIFNET, were also present.

-ICAR-CIFT



Indo- Japan Chamber in Kerala moots joint ventures with Japanese firms

Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce Kerala (INJACK) has mooted a proposal to set up joint ventures with Japanese firms for tuna processing in the State, considering the market potential of this particular fish variety in that country. Currently, there is no export of sashmi grade chilled tuna to Japan, which is mainly depending on Sri Lanka and Maldives. Lakshadweep has good presence of yellow fin tuna used for sashmi, but there is need for technical and onboard handling of sashmi grade tuna, said Sajiv K Menon, President, INJACK.

Training needed

Quoting CMFRI data, he said tuna handling in India was 22,587 tons. However, small but modern vessels with facility for onboard handling of tuna are required. Moreover, attempts to promote sashmi exports from India to Japan is yet to yield results.

Menon made these request before the visiting Japanese Ambassador Kenji Hiramatsu, who assured the business delegates that tuna fishing and processing is one of the areas of priority interest for Japan. Since the fishing community in Kerala are not trained in tuna handling, there

is scope for joint ventures in providing training in this sector, said KS Srinivas, Managing Director, Marine Products Export Development Authority.

Joint ventures mooted

He also requested the ambassador to take steps to reduce the inspection of samplings of seafood consignments from India from the present 100 per cent to 50 per cent, as is done by European Union countries. INJACK, Menon said, would like to create 100 Japanese joint ventures in Kerala as the State government has unveiled a slew of measures to enhance the ease of doing business.

The Electronics/Cyber Park is ideal for Japanese clusters and Kerala with its highly trained manpower, especially in IT/ITeS can offer good support with private participation.

The Ambassador said a liaison desk would be established in his embassy for promoting business between Japan and Kerala. The awareness of Kerala in Japan is very low and it needs to be promoted considering the opportunities in ayurveda and health tourism. A delegation of Japanese businessmen and investors will visit Kerala for B2B discussions, he added.

- Business Line



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