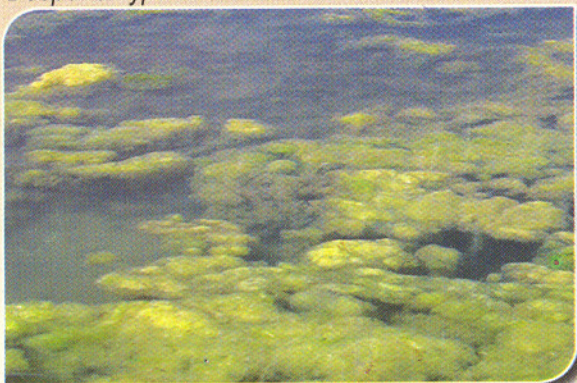




Shallower part of lake in Andhra Pradesh



Deeper & hypersaline zone of lake in Tamil Nadu



Algal mounds in Andhra Pradesh part of lake

RESEARCH BRIEF

Pulicat Lake – Fishery Management Plan

Pulicat Lake is the second largest brackish-water lake in India situated 13°26' and 13°43' N latitude and 80°03' and 80°18' E) running almost parallel to the Bay of Bengal. The lake area extends between Ponneri and Gumidipundi Taluk of Thiruvallur district in Tamil Nadu and Sullurpet and Tada Taluk of Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh, covering an area of about 461 km² with effective water area reduced to 350 km² only. The lake opens into the Bay of Bengal through a narrow passage at its southern end, near the Pulicat town and at Sriharikota in the northern side. It is now a shallow lake with an average water depth of 0.7 m having three larger inflows besides a number of minor inflows.

Biodiversity : A total of 29 species of fish including one exotic (maximum species reported 35 spp. in 1880s), 180 species of phytoplankton (Maximum report 43 species), 18 species of zooplankton (maximum report 88 species), 22 species of macro-benthic invertebrates and 30 species

of macrophytes (6 species recorded earlier) have been identified during the recent investigation conducted by CIFRI from 2007 to 2009.



Penaeus indicus



Oreochromis mossambicus

Fisheries

Trend of fishery in Pulicat lake (mt)

States	1980s	2007-08	2008-09
Andhra Pradesh	6500	2345	1747
Tamil Nadu	2835	220	2145
Total	9335	4545	3892

The fisheries of Pulicat depend largely on the catch of *P. indicus* (>50 % to the total catch), mullets (*M. cephalus* > *M. tade* > *M. canneaius* > *M. macrolaepis* > *Liza parsia*)- around 20% to the total catch. The dominant fishery during 1970s and 1980s, the *Chanos chanos* is rare now (< 2% in the total catch). The abundance of *P. monodon*, the tiger prawn, which was predominant during 1970s and 1980s has also declined significantly more than 95%. Other prawns, contributing to the fishery are *Metapenaeus dobsonii*, *M. monoceros* and *M. brevicornis* (6-8% to the total catch).

Green Crab (*Scylla serrata*), which was a major fishery in 1980s, has declined alarmingly by (> 90%) due to over fishing and wanton killing of matured brooders. On an average per fisher used to catch 30 crabs in 1980s, which has now declined to an average of 02 crabs per fisher per day. *Plotosus canius*, *Sardinella* sp. and *Hilsa keele*, which were sizeable during 1980's (15-17% to the total catch) could not be recorded during the present study. *O. mossambicus*, an exotic fish species, has established in the AP part with good fishery (>17 %). The use of destructive fishing practices have been rampant leading

to over-fishing, as evidenced from the sizeable catch of small sized mullets and crabs. The average catch per fisher per day has been estimated at 200 g to 300g /day, mainly of *P. indicus*.

Management Plan Pulicat being a trans-boundary wetland, its management is difficult unless single authority is entrusted the responsibility like Chilika, with representatives from both states. The bar mouth near Sriharikota (AP) needs dredging for facilitating the ingress of sea-water into the lake so that the declining salinity regime is restored. Periodic de-silting would also be essential for the bar-mouth in TN Sector, which has become very narrow due to shoal formation. Effective monitoring on the flow of pollutants, especially hot water from thermal power plant, through Buckingham Canal, would be essential to protect the fishery and biodiversity of the lake. Close monitoring on the fishery of exotic fish and its impact on endemic fish germplasm would be essential. Resolving the conflicts among traditional fishers and new settlers would be essential to avoid over-fishing.



Upper Estuary - Jaleswar

Subarnarekha Estuary- Livelihood Provider

The river Subarnarekha, “the streak of gold” as the name connotes, is about 460 km in length. It originates in the Chotanagpur plateau near Ranchi and meanders through the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa before draining into the Bay of Bengal near Kirtaniya/Chaumukha in the district Baleswar (Balasore) in Orissa. The estuarine span of the river is about 45 km longitudinally covering a stretch between sea-face (about 1.5 km downstream of Kirtaniya) and Jaleswar, and is confined within the state of Orissa. Though a feeble impact of tide is sometimes



Mid-Estuary - Dahamunda

observed in the uppermost part at Jaleswar, in physical dimension, the estuary proper should be considered only up to about 5-6 km downstream of Jaleswar and 5-6 km below Dahamunda. This beautiful estuary dwells through a difficult and almost untrodden terrain, in the state of Orissa and till recently, could attract only a few nature lovers. For this reason perhaps, it remained little known so far as its ecology, fishery



Lower Estuary- Kirtanya

and aquatic bio-diversity are concerned. With this in view, a team of investigators of CIFRI has taken up studies on the ecology, fishery and aquatic biodiversity of the Subarnarekha estuary, including the mangroves at the mouth of the estuary.



Hilsa ilisha

Fish Diversity : A total of 124 species of fishes have been collected and identified during the present investigation conducted by CIFRI during 2008 -2009.

Thirteen species of prawns and 7 species of crabs have so far been recorded from different zones of the estuary. While there is a dominance of *Labeo calbasu* among carp fishery in the freshwater zone (Jaleswar to Dahamunda), the saline zone of the river supports a good variety of fishes and decapod crustaceans. In the medium saline zone at Ramnagar (Rasulpur) mullets were found to be most dominant.



Prawns

Fishery

From Dahamunda to the saline zone *Rhinomugil corsula* constitute a sizeable fishery. Hilsa, *Tenualosa ilisha* was found to be one of the most dominant species in the catches at the confluence point with Bay of Bengal during monsoon, contributing about 25% of the total catch of about 10 t /day. *Lobotes surinamensis*, *Arius jella*, *Sardinella melanura*, *Coilia dussumeiri* etc., were the other major contributors. Though Hilsa migration takes place upto Jaleswar the catch of hilsa plummets significantly upstream of Dahamunda and is found in stray numbers at Jaleswar. The fishing gears operated during different seasons included set-barrier, bag-net, drift gill and drag-nets, cast net, small pieces of thick-meshed dragnets (operated by two persons) and hooks & lines. The total production from the estuary is to the tune of 617t and approximately 1400 fisherman are dependant on the estuary for their livelihood.



Fishing activity in Middle & Upper stretch of Subarnarekha Estuary



Fishing activity in Middle & Upper stretch of Subarnarekha Estuary

Khadan fishing: An indigenous method of fishing known as Khadan fishing has been observed at Jaleswar and Dahamunda. At selected vantage points, different aquatic plants are dumped and spread over the area encircled by rope and bamboo frame. This enclosed area may be circular or rectangular. The fishes assemble below the mass of plant debris for shelter. After 2-3 days the whole area is enclosed by thick meshed nylon net. The aquatic plants are then removed and the entrapped fishes are harvested by dragging or with the help of cast net and finally even by hand picking.



An indigenous fishing method (Khadan fishing)

Policy Intervention Need to Save Hilsa Stocks

The undersized hilsa (*Hilsa ilisha*) below 500 g are being caught in plenty using monofilament fishing nets of 80-85 mm and below mesh size at Frasergunj defeating the very cause of stock sustenance and supporting the dwindling hilsa fishery in the Hooghly estuary. The situation is alarming, as the ripe mature hilsa brooders are being caught in the sea and estuarine mouth at Frasergunj prior to their breeding migration to the Hooghly estuary. The fish catch recorded from five trawlers at the Frasergunj Fishing Harbour was 5.6 t where the contribution of hilsa alone was 3.2 t (56.3%) and 96% were female fish. Observations on the maturity conditions revealed that 59.8%



of the fishes were in 4th stage of maturity followed by 26.3% in 3rd stage, 7.5% in 2nd stage and 6.4% in 5th stage.



Mature hilsa brood fish

Bottom trawling for catching fish by the foreign fishers within our territorial waters is a big menace.. The bottom trawling besides catching hilsa brood fishers is also damaging the breeding grounds of many fin and shell fishes. Moreover, unauthorised fishing with bagnets in the estuary mouth by a section of outsiders have been destroying huge quantity of fish seed and juveniles of fin and shell fishes.

Suggested Interventions

- The breeding migration of hilsa actually take place in July, which may prolong till August. The official fishing ban in force in the marine fisheries sector along the West Bengal coast is from April 15th to June 30th. Thus, beyond the prevailing period of the closed season there is need to strictly adhere to the mesh size (90 - 100mm) regulation for exploitation of hilsa below 50g to protect the precious hilsa brooders.
- It is recommended that there should be a strict ban on catching of juveniles to conserve hilsa fishery. Strict vigil is required by the law enforcing authority



Destructuon of hilsa fishery by monofilament gillnet

in the sea to control illegal fishing by the foreigners in Indian territorial water

National Agricultural Innovative Project corner

Four projects under NAIP are in operation at this Institute. Under the project 'Arsenic in food-chain: cause effect and mitigation' a number of fishes were analysed for arsenic accumulation in body. About 20% of the fish samples collected from arsenic affected area registrar arsenic content above the permissible level of $100 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$, indicating moderate level of risk associated with human consumption of fishes raised in these water areas.

TRAINING, SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EXHIBITION

The manpower development is one of the key areas of CIFRI. In this endeavour the institute during the period organized three training programmes for state officials and also improved the skills of our administrative staff by inviting renowned institutes in the country to give training to our staff on campus.

Name of Program	Participants	Venue
Inland Fisheries Development	10 fishers from Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Supaul, Bihar	CIFRI, Barrackpore during 5-9 th January 2009
Reservoir Fisheries Management	16 Officers of the Department of Fisheries, Madhya Pradesh	CIFRI, Barrackpore during 14-21 st February 2009
Inland Fisheries Development	5 Fisheries Officers from the State of Punjab,.	CIFRI, Barrackpore during 29 th April to 3 rd May 2009
Administrative rules and procedures	Officers of CIFRI	29 April -1 May, 2009 at CIFRI, Barrackpore, organized by NAARM, Hyderabad
Administrative rules and procedures	Administrative staff of CIFRI	2 – 5 May, 2009 at CIFRI, Barrackpore, organized by NAARM, Hyderabad
Administrative rules and procedures	Administrative staff of CIFRI	1 -6 June, 2009 at CIFRI, Barrackpore organized by ISTM, New Delhi



The institute participated in the following exhibitions

- *Manmohan Mela O Loko Sanskriti Utsav* organized at Barasat, North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal during 4-11th January 2009,

- 'Indaqua 2009' organized by MPEDA at Kolkata during 18-20 February 2009 and in the Bengal Science Congress, organized during 28th February to 1st March 2009 at Burdwan University, West Bengal.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Research Advisory Committee

The Research Advisory Committee meeting was held on 5-6th February, 2009 at CIFRI, Barrackpore. The meeting was attended by Dr. M. V. Gupta, Chairman and other members namely, Dr. R. K. Sinha, Dr. S. Kaul, Dr. C. S. Singh, Dr. U. C. Goswami, and Dr. V.V. Sugunan. All Heads of Division and other scientists, of CIFRI Barrackpore participated in this important meeting. The HODs presented the progress and achievements made in their respective divisions/ projects during the year, 2008- 09 for suggestions and direction from the RAC members.

Technical Monitoring Committee

Technical Monitoring Committee meeting of Central Sector Scheme was held on 12th February, 2009 under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. K. Bhatia, Director, IASRI. The other delegates who attended were Mr D. Chowdhury, Director (Fy Admin of Stat.) DAHD, Govt. of India. Dr. V. S. Somavanshi, Director General FSI, Dr. H.L.V. Bathla Head S. S. IASRI, Dr. R.M. Dwivedi, Head SAC, Dr. P. Pandian (Dy. Advisor Fy. Planning Commission and other officials from different states. All the Heads of Divisions and scientists of the projects, other senior officers posted at CIFRI, Barrackpore attended the meeting.

Institute Management Committee

The 37th Meeting of the Institute Management Committee of the CIFRI was held at Barrackpore on 21st February, 2009. The meeting was chaired by Dr. K.K. Vass, Director, Dr. V.V. Sugunan, Assistant Director General (I. Fy.), ICAR, Shri R.N. Chowdhury, Director of Fisheries, Bihar, Patna, Mr. Ejaz Ahmed, Patna (Nonofficial Member) Dr. M.M. Prasad, Pr. Scientist, CIFT and Shri U.C. Prasad, Sr. Administrative Officer, CIFRI attended the meeting. The Chairman briefed the members about the achievements made by the Institute under different Research Projects and other performance of the institute. The Committee discussed the listed agenda items with regard to administrative, financial items and progress of civil works. The action taken report was also discussed.

Review of Outreach Activities

The Annual Review Meeting of the Outreach Activities on Fish Feeds, Fish Genetic Stock and Fish Nutrient Profiling was organised during 26-27th February, 2009 at CIFRI Barrackpore. Dr. S. Ayyappan, DDG (Fy.), ICAR chaired the meeting. Apart from the PIs of the three projects other scientists from eight fishery institutes, Dr. Sugunan ADG I.Fy. and Dr W.



Lakra, Director NBFGR and others participated in the meeting.

Consultancy projects

A discussion meeting was organized to finalize the draft report of the NHPC Subansiri consultancy project 'Study on migration of fishes in the river Subansiri and creation of fish hatchery' on April 28, 2009 at CIFRI Regional Center, Guwahati. Dr. K. K. Vass, Director, CIFRI, other scientists of the project and Mr. Vipin Kumar, CE (Environment) and Mr. B. Kumar from NHPC, Lower Subansiri Hydro Electric Power Project participated in the discussion. The report was discussed and necessary suggestions made for its finalization.



NFDB/CIFRI initiative on reservoir fisheries development

An orientation workshop on "Fisheries Development on Reservoirs" was organised by NFDB in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation, Coimbatore on June 13-14, 2009 at Coimbatore. The technical expertise for the conductance of the workshop was provided by CIFRI. The workshop was attended by high officials from ICAR, NFDB, Department of Fisheries of the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan,



Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chattisgarh, Orissa; Damodar Valley Corporation, Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation. Senior scientists of the institute shared practical experiences on estimation of fish diversity, population and catch with the delegates. All the orientation presentations were very interactive and created lots of interests among the state officials.

Post Aila Brainstorming on Sunderbans

A brainstorming session on Alternative livelihood options for fishers folk of Sunderbans was held on 24th April, 2009 at Sunderban, Dhamakhalli jointly sponsored by the Faculty of fisheries Science (WBUAFS) and Sunderban Development Board. Prof. C.S.Chakraborti, Vice Chancellor, WBUAFS presided over the function. Dr.S.Ayyappan, D.D.G.Fy., ICAR was the chief guest and Dr. K.K.Vass Director, CIFRI was special guest. Scientist, NGOs, Farmers fishers and other Govt. officials deliberated on issues pertaining to improvement of livelihood of fishers of Sunderbans and a work plan for implementation of the recommendation was developed.

Post Anila brainstorming on Sunderbans



Director's Meetings

During the period Dr. Vass participated in important meetings and conferences. He delivered an invited lecture at the Indian Science Congress on January 5, 2009 held at NEHU, Shillong. As a member of Research Advisory Committee of BSI and ZSI, participated in project evaluation meeting on January 7-8, 2009 at BSI Regional Station, Dehradun. Attended the ICAR Governing Body meetings held in January and June at New Delhi. Actively participated in different meetings of Executive council and Court of BCKV, Mohanpur and WBUAS & F, Belgachia, Kolkata as an ICAR member. In the capacity of Member Court and Executive Council participated in BCKV and WBUAS&F convocation held on April 9 and April 16, 2009, respectively of two Universities. As a member of National Wetland Committee of MOEF, GOI attended the meeting on 16.3.2009 held at CGO Complex, New Delhi. As a special invitee participated in IWMI sponsored meeting on River linking at New Delhi on April 7-8, 2009. On the occasion of International Biodiversity Day delivered a special lecture on 22.5.2009 at ZSI, Kolkatta as Chief Guest. Participated in the meeting on Inland Fisheries, called by Planning Commission, GOI at New Delhi on 18.5.09. As a technical expert member attended the meeting of Central Water Commission held on May 28, 2009 at New Delhi. Provided major technical inputs and participated in NFDB sponsored Orientation Workshop on Reservoir Fisheries held at Coimbatore, between June 13-14, 2009.



Dr. H. S. Swaminathan addressing the convocation of BCKV.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

Review Meet at Egypt

The final wrap-up meeting of CGIAR Challenge Program on Water & Food (CP PN-34) Project on *Improved Fisheries Productivity and Management in Tropical Reservoirs* was held at Aswan (Egypt) during 03-07 May 2009. It was organized by the World Fish Center. A team of scientists led by Dr. K. K. Vass, Director, CIFRI & Executive PI of the project for Indo-Gangetic Basin with other scientists Shri N. P. Shrivastava, Dr. P. K. Katiha and Dr. A. K. Das participated in this meeting. The other participants were from CGIAR-World Fish Center, Malaysia & Cairo (Egypt); Advance Research Institute (ARI), Norway; Volta basin - Water Research Institute (WRI), Ghana; Nile basin- NIOF-LNDA, Egypt. The project activities and achievements under all three basins (IGB, Volta & Nile) were presented and discussed in this meeting. The CP-34 Final Project Report was also finalized during this meet. The work done by the project in IGB reservoirs in India was highly appreciated. A number of publications like Hand Book on Cage culture in Indian reservoirs, Protocols for fisheries enhancement in Indian reservoirs, Document on research achievements, Methodology manual, Pamphlets, Leaflets on reservoir fisheries prepared under the project including the videos were displayed and presented to participants from other basins and international experts and was highly appreciated.



Dr. Ayyappan, DDG (Fy) addressing the workshop



Core team of the project



Final Project Work shop

CIFRI successfully completed prestigious CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food project on "Improved Fisheries Productivity and Management in Tropical Reservoirs". Final workshop of the project was held at CIFRI, Barrackpore on May 26, 2009. The workshop was attended by Dr. S. Ayyappan, DDG (Fy), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. V. V. Sugunan, ADG (Fy), ICAR, New Delhi, Mr. R. Pattar, Director (Finance), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr. G. N. Sai, Executive Director, NFDB, Hyderabad, project partners from Bundelkhand and Barkatullah Universities and Departments of Fisheries of the States of Uttar and Madhya Pradesh.

Review of other foreign aided projects

The Fisheries Division Meeting convened by DDG (Fisheries), ICAR, to review the progress of foreign aided projects, was held at CIFRI on 27th May 2009. It was chaired by Dr. S. Ayyappan, DDG (Fy), ICAR. Dr. V.V. Sugunan ADG (I Fy), Dr. A. E. Eknath, Director, CIFA, Shri R. Pattar, Director Finance, ICAR attended the meeting. Dr S. Ayyappan expressed satisfaction for the high level of performance and quality output from the foreign aided projects.

STAFF NEWS

Aila Relief

Staff members of CIFRI collected donations for relief to the hapless victims of the devastating Aila cyclone in the Sunderban area. Clothes and other dry food items were collected and handed over to Bharat Sevashram Sangh for distribution to the victims.

A. Promotions

i) Name	Promoted to	w.e.f.
Dr. U.Bhaumik	Head, Division of Riverine Ecology, and Fisheries	27.02.09
Dr. M.K.Das	Head, Division of Fishery Resource & Environmental Management	27.02.09
Dr. B.C.Jha	Head, Division of Reservoir & Wetland Fishery	27.02.09
Shri B. M. Pandit	Scientist (Sr. Scale)	27.01.07
Shri P. Maurye	Scientist (Sr. Scale)	16.11.2005
Shri Ganesh Chandra	Scientist (Sr. Scale)	24.11.2005
Dr. B. P. Mohanty	Senior Scientist	23.01.2002
Dr. B. K. Bhattacharjya	Senior Scientist	17.06.2002
Dr. S. K. Manna	Senior Scientist	23.12.2006
Dr. Md. Aftabuddin	Senior Scientist	14.09.2007
Dr. Preetha Panikkar	Scientist (Sr. Scale)	29.06.2005
Shri S. K. Sahu	Scientist (Sr.Scale)	25.02.2006
Dr. P.K. Katiha	Principal Scientist	27.07.2006



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

During the period, construction of the laboratory on the ground floor at Barrackpore was completed, while 1st floor is under completion. A common ICAR Guest House to be jointly constructed by CIFRI, CARI, ICAR Complex Barapani and CAU, Manipur at CIFE centre, Salt Lake, Kolkata has been approved during the XI plan. In this connection a foundation stone was laid by Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR on 8th March, 2009. It will be a land mark in common sharing of resources by different ICAR Institutes under NARS. This facility is very much needed in Kolkata city for the use of NARS partners.



ii) Inter Institutional Transfer / Promotion

Dr. Asok Biswas, T-(7-8), relieved from Regional Centre of CIFRI, Guwahati on 24.02.2009 to join at CIFE Centre, Salt Lake, Kolkata.

Shri Z. H. Khilji, Finance & Accounts Officer, relieved from

CIFRI, Barrackpore on 12.03.2009 to join at Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi as Deputy Director (Administration & Finance)

Shri K. P. Nath joined CIFRI at Barrackpore on 01.06.2009 on promotion as Finance & Accounts Officer from Zonal Project Directorate Zone II ICAR Salt Lake, Kolkata.

iii) Superannuation

Name & Designation	Last Place of Posting	Date of Superannuation
Dr. D. Nath, Principal Scientist	Barrackpore	31.01.2009
Dr. A Ghosh, Principal Scientist	Barrackpore	31.01.2009
Smt. N. Banerjee, Assistant	Barrackpore	31.01.2009
Ms. Mira Sen, T-9	Barrackpore	28.02.2009
Shri S.S. Sinha, AAO	Guwahati	31.03.2009
Shri A.M. Patra SSG. IV	Barrackpore	31.03.2009
Shri S. R. Das, Principal Scientist	Barrackpore	30.06.2009
Shri Gunadhar Dhibar, SSG. III	Barrackpore	30.06.2009

IV) New Appointment

1. Shri Vijay Kumar, T-3, Joined at Regional Centre of CIFRI, Allahabad on 16.01.2009.

VISITORS

Name	Organization
Dr. M. Vijaya Gupta	Ex ADG, ICLARAM,
Dr. S. Ayyappan	DDG (Fy.) ICAR, New Delhi
Shri R. N. Chowdhury	Director of Fisheries, Govt. of Bihar
Shri R. Pattar,	Director Finance, ICAR, New Delhi
Prof. Umesh Ch. Goswami	Dept of Zoology, Gauhati University
Prof. R. K. Sinha	Dept of Zoology, Patna University
Dr. S. Kaul	Director, Ministry of Environment & Forest, GOI, New Delhi
Dr. C. S. Singh	Retd. Dean, Fisheries College, Pantnagar Agricultural University, Uttarakhand
Prof. H. P. C. Shetty	Retd., Dean Fisheries, Mangalore Fisheries College, Karnataka
Dr. V.V. Sugunan	ADG (I Fy), ICAR, New Delhi
Dr. V.K. Bhatia	Director, IASRI, New Delhi
Dr. V. S. Somvansi	Director General, FSI, GOI, Mumbai
Dr. W.S. Lakra	Director, NBFGR, Lucknow
Dr. R.M. Dwivedi	Head, Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad
Mr. Ejaj Ahmed	Progressive Farmer, Bihar
Dr. P. Pandian	Dy. Advisor (Ag.) Planning Commission, GOI, New Delhi
Dr. A. E. Eknath,	Director, CIFA, Bhubaneswar

Obituary

Staff members of CIFRI express their deep sorrow at the demise of Shri Ashutosh Bhattacharjee, SSG.II, on 12.05.09. The office held condolence meeting and an appropriate message was sent to the bereaved family.



Director's desk...

Dear Reader,

The present issue of CIFRI-News highlights various activities pursued during last six months in the field of research, technology transfer, and human resource development, imparting training and extending technical backstopping to development departments in the inland fishery sector. During the period our scientists continued to execute their project activities related to estuaries, rivers, reservoirs, wetlands, environmental issues, climate change and different sponsored projects including four NAIP activities as consortium partners. The institute during the period imparted training to large number of officials, officers and fishers from different states.

During the period the institute management worked hard to accomplish their administrative and financial plan targets for the financial year 2008-09. The major event during the period was laying of foundation stone by our respected Secretary DARE & Director General ICAR Dr. Mangala Rai on March 08, 2009 for the ICAR Common Guest House facility at Salt Lake, Kolkata. This facility will be jointly created with financial contribution from CIFRI, Barrackpore, CARI, Port Blair, ICAR Complex, Barapani, Shillong, Central Agriculture University, Manipur while CIFE, Mumbai has been gracious enough to provide land for creating the facility in their Regional Centre Complex at Salt lake. This partnership model envisaged by respected DG. ICAR will be an example of co-operation among NARS partners involving research institutes and Agriculture University. On the international front the CIFRI successfully completed the action research project on Reservoir fisheries sponsored by CGIAR, CPWF in three basins viz Indo-Gangetic, Nile and Volta. The final wrap-up workshop to evaluate the work of three basins was Organised by World Fish office in Egypt, during May 03-07, 2009 at Aswan, Egypt. The work carried out by the Indian team led by CIFRI was highly appreciated. At the national level final workshop of this project under chairmanship of Dr. Ayyappan (DDG, Fy.) was held at Barrackpore on May 26, 2009 the progress of project was critically evaluated and achievements appreciated. Based on the strength of this project and previous work carried out by CIFRI in reservoir fisheries the National Fisheries Development Board has established a close linkage with CIFRI for their flagship programme on Reservoir Fisheries. The CIFRI has been providing all technical backstopping to NFDB and rendered technical help in conduct of special reservoir fishery orientation workshop for southern states held at Coimbatore during June 13-14.

Unlike rivers, which are under increasing threat of environmental degradation, reservoirs in India offer ample scope for fish yield optimization through effective management, which has been demonstrated by CIFRI in many case studies across the country. The sheer magnitude of the resource makes it possible to enable substantial increase in production by even a modest improvement in yield. Further, importance of reservoirs derives mainly from advantages from environmental and social perspectives. The benefit of increased yield and income generated from reservoirs is more equitably distributed among fishing communities. There is also a need to dovetail the twin objectives of yield optimization and environmental conservation. Realizing the importance of reservoirs



in inland fishery enhancement the authorities in Government of India through NFDB initiative made available necessary financial support to states, which they lacked so-far. While financial support is in place through a special scheme launched by NFDB but to get the desired benefits states need to be technically equipped as well. In this direction NFDB, ICAR, DAHD&F, have joined hands to make implementing agencies in the states fully aware of

existing technologies through technical backstopping provided by CIFRI. During the period as per general directives of Council the organizational re-structuring was put in place through divisional and regional centre concept of working. This will help CIFRI in addressing the researchable and action research issues across the country in a much more focused manner. The mandatory meetings of different committees were held at Barrackpore as per schedule during the period. During the period many important national level meetings were attended by me in which many issues concerning inland fisheries and aquatic environment were flagged by me so that appropriate policy support could be put in place by the authorities for the development of inland open-water fisheries.

Between January - June 2009 some of our colleagues superannuated we wish them a happy, active and healthy retired life; some colleagues moved to other institutes / organizations we value their contribution to the institute and wish them pleasant working at new places. Some new scientists and other staff joined the institute as fresh recruits, the CIFRI family welcomes them. The CIFRI family also congratulates the scientists and staff who got promotions during this period. Many infrastructure activities were completed and new initiated during the period. Looking back on six months achievements we feel satisfied but much remains to be done. The CIFRI will continue to play its active role in developing sustainable technologies / practices to improve the livelihoods of poor fishers operating in common property waters in collaboration with respective line departments in the country.

Any suggestions from our respected readers for further improving the contents of the newsletter will be highly appreciated. Finally dear readers the responsibility of this great institute was given to me by ICAR on January 29, 2005 and have tried with all my capacity to contribute and work all these years for its glory. At the end of November 2009 I will be laying down my office and feel satisfied of having worked with all my colleagues at CIFRI in a collective and effective manner. During these years many things have been accomplished but much more remains to be done. It is continuous hard work we all have to do. At the same time we should maintain the tradition and culture of this organization.

Barrackpore

September 15, 2009.

K.K.Vass

Published by : Dr. K.K. Vass, Director, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, Kolkata - 700 120
 Edited : Dr. Manas Kumar Das & Dr. S. K. Manna
 Assisted by : Dr. S. Bhowmick and Shri S. Chowdhury
 Printed by : Florence Offset Process Pvt. Ltd., 6A, S. N. Banerjee Road, Kolkata - 700 013, Ph. : 2265 0018