

ICAR-CMFRI - 74th Foundation Day Message

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me immense pleasure to greet each one of you on the eve of this 74th Anniversary of Foundation of ICAR-CMFRI. We are proud to have steered successfully during the past seven decades with several outstanding achievements that have led to substantial contributions towards the sustainable development of marine fisheries sector of the country. The coveted *Sardar Vallabhai Patel Outstanding Institution Award* that we bagged in 2020, for the second time, is certainly a reflection of our exceptional performance during the recent past.

The year 2020 had been particularly challenging for us due to COVID-19 and associated hardships. However, each and every one of you has worked exceptionally hard to tide over the difficulties during the pandemic time. Despite the challenges, we were able to make significant progress in research and development activities, publications, policy guidance and in hosting several high profile events. Some of the noteworthy achievements include: Release of the Tamil Nadu Marine Fisheries Policy Document; Marine Fisheries Census Report, 2016; Vulnerability assessment of commercially important marine fish species to climate change and adaptation strategies; Strategies and prospects for streamlining marine fish marketing; Standardization of seed production technology of John's snapper (*Lutjanus johnii*) which was dedicated to the nation by the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Ji on 07th December 2020; Success in breeding and seed production of *Siganus vermiculatus*; Submission of the Draft National Mariculture Policy to Govt of India; Patent for the CadalminTM Anti diabetic extract (ADe) from seaweed; Release of CadalminTM Immunoboost Extract (IBe); Commercialization of nutraceuticals for use against arthritis, type-2 diabetes, hypertension and hypothyroidism. We were also fortunate to have the presence of Shri. Giriraj Singh Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying who oversaw the activities of Mandapam RC of CMFRI on 23rd January, 2021. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India has assigned us the task of assessing the stocks of yellow fin tuna along Indian EEZ integrating genetic stock identification principles. We have also been entrusted to undertake stock assessment of marine mammals along the Indian coast by the Government of India. In these endeavours, we owe a great deal to the constant encouragement, guidance and support received from Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR; Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG (Fisheries Science), ICAR and the Fisheries Division of ICAR. Needless to stress upon, we have to maintain the momentum in our research efforts towards sustainable fisheries management and enhancement of marine fish production through mariculture activities. The continued support of scientific, technical, administrative and support staff and research scholars of ICAR-CMFRI is highly indispensable towards this feat.

This year, we are constrained to host a regular Foundation Day event due to the restrictions imposed by the government to contain COVID-19. I am sure we will prove ourselves resilient and will emerge triumphant against all odds that the pandemic has forced on us. I wholeheartedly wish each one of you on this occasion and urge you to work steadfastly for continued excellence in the forthcoming year.

Kochi
02 Feb 2021

(A. Gopalakrishnan)