ICAR-CIFA hosts 14th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture forum

Over 1,000 delegates from India and six countries converge to explore innovations and sustainable pathways for fisheries and aquaculture

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The 14th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (14IFAF), a major international scientific conference in fisheries and aquaculture, commenced today at the ICAR–Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The three-day conference, being held from 18th to 20th November, 2026, is jointly organised by the Asian Fisheries Society, Indian Branch (AFSIB), ICAR-CIFA, Department of Fisheries, Government of India, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (FARD) Department, Government of Odisha, and the Association of Aquaculturists.



The conference is being held under the theme **“Transforming Aquaculture and Fisheries: Bridging Science and Society”,** with a focus on advancing scientific knowledge, promoting technological innovations and strengthening collaboration among researchers, policymakers, industry stakeholders and farming communities.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr Eduardo Leano, Director General, Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Bangkok. In his inaugural address, he emphasised the need to accelerate innovation and technology adoption to transform the aquaculture sector.

Dr J. K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), ICAR, highlighted the importance of greater investment in frontier research and the development of robust value chains. Dr B. K. Behera, Chief Executive, NFDB, stressed strengthening fisheries cooperatives to improve the livelihoods of fishers. Dr C. Vasudevappa, former Vice-Chancellor, NIFTEM, Kundli, Haryana, emphasised the importance of ensuring fish quality and enhancing consumer acceptance.



Other distinguished speakers included Dr A. E. Eknath, former Director General, NACA; Dr K. M. Rajesh, Secretary, AFSIB; Dr Dilip Kumar, former Director, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai; and Dr I. Karunasagar, Advisor, FAO Reference Centre, NITTE University, Mangaluru. They shared their perspectives on emerging priorities, research advancements and future opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture.

Earlier, Dr P. K. Sahoo, Director, ICAR-CIFA and Convener of the Conference, welcomed the dignitaries and delegates. He highlighted the importance of strengthening science–industry–farmer linkages, promoting international cooperation and translating research outcomes into practical solutions for the farming community. He informed that the forum has attracted over 1,000 participants from India and six other countries, comprising scientists, researchers, academicians, policymakers, entrepreneurs, industry representatives and farmers.

Key areas of deliberation during the three-day conference include sustainable fisheries management, aquatic ecosystem conservation, artificial intelligence (AI), genome editing, precision aquaculture, advanced breeding technologies, feed development, aquatic animal health and genetic improvement.

A concurrent exhibition featuring 20 agencies is showcasing technologies, innovations, products and services in fisheries and aquaculture. The exhibition provides an opportunity for industry stakeholders, researchers and farmers to interact, explore technological solutions and establish collaborative partnerships. The inaugural ceremony also featured the release of scientific publications and presentation of the Fellow Awards of the Association of Aquaculturists to eminent fisheries scientists in recognition of their contributions to the sector.

The three-day forum aims to facilitate scientific exchange, foster national and international cooperation and identify actionable strategies for sustainable, inclusive and technology-driven growth of India's fisheries and aquaculture sector.

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