



CIFA holds National Consultation and Stakeholder Meet to prioritize research agenda.

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Bhubaneswar, Odisha

In a bid to prioritize research agenda for the next five years (2012-17) the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) organized National Consultation and Stakeholder meet here today. Underscoring the importance of holding stakeholder consultation director CIFA Dr P Jayasankar said ‘farmers should be at the driver’s seat in matters related to agricultural and allied sector development’. Farmers, the end users of research outputs, must have a say in deciding research priorities, he added. In spite of having several narrowly focused research projects, the institute proposes to have one flagship project with *clear focus*, integrating disciplines to *generate such technologies* as would be relevant to *bring about a breakthrough* in the existing and emerging scenario. The flagship project would also aim at reducing yield gap between research farm and farmers’ field. Representatives from farming community, industry, state line departments and R&D institutions as well as eminent aquaculture experts, including Dr. M.V. Gupta, World Food Prize laureate, Dr. S.D.Tripathi, Former Director, CIFA ; Dr. Dilip Kumar, Former Director, CIFE and Dr S D Singh, ADG (Inland Fisheries), ICAR, New Delhi participated in the deliberations.



CIFA to focus on –

- Need based and demand driven re-orientation of research programmes giving thrust on ‘*Farmer First*’ approach.
- Development of technology package and demonstration to achieve sustainable production of 10 ton/ha/year.

The experts stressed on application of research for development. CIFA should work towards ensuring knowledge driven aquaculture development. Fish farmers and entrepreneurs from Assam, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha attended the meet and provided feed back towards framing research agenda. Important concerns raised by them include – suicide by farmers; declining profit ; breeding and culture technology of indigenous species; cost effective formulated feed; large scale demonstration of improved technologies; technical backup and training etc. The stakeholders had a fruitful discussion with the scientists on the ‘demand of the freshwater aquaculture sector’ and ‘preparedness of CIFA’. The institute already had two such meetings during the previous year and this meeting would give final touches to the draft research agenda to be carried out during XII five year plan period. Dr Jayasankar felicitated the stakeholders for participating in the meet and providing valuable inputs. Dr S Adhikari, Senior Scientist coordinated the programme.

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