

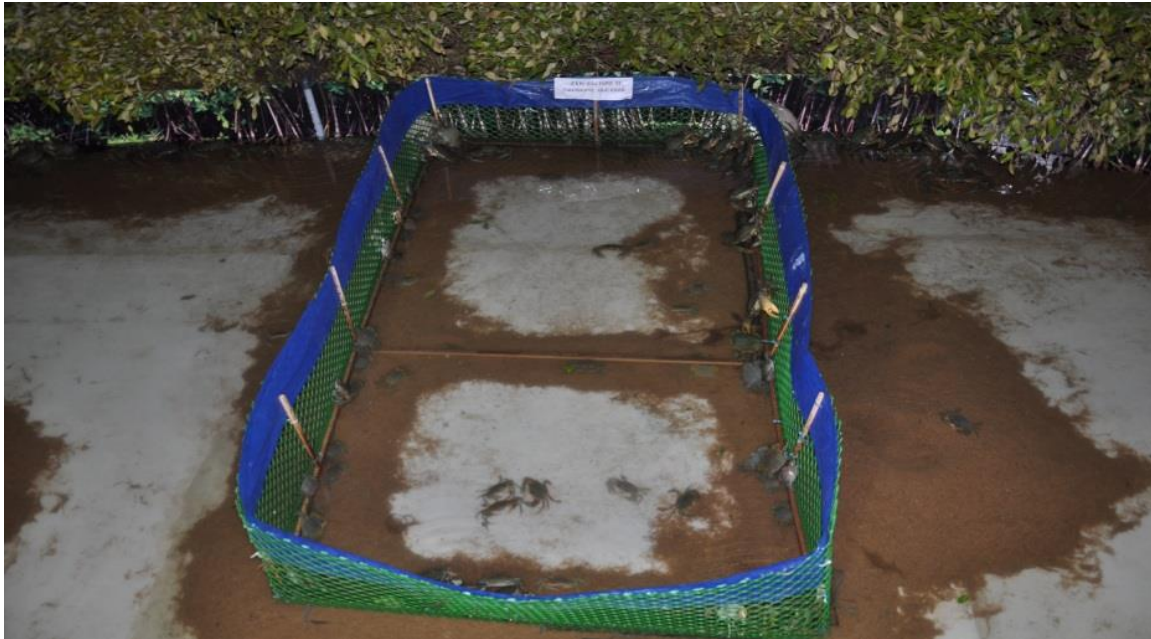
AQUA AQUARIA INDIA-2015, Vijayawada

The congregation of farmers and delegates at the Aqua Aquaria 2015 were provided with a visual treat at the pavilion of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture, the Research & Development arm of the Marine Products Export Development Authority. A massive independent hangar of 30m x 30m size was setup by RGCA to showcase the various activities carried out by the centre in aquaculture technology development and dissemination.



There was a huge deviation from conventional trade shows and fairs as huge tanks and enclosures exactly as in hatchery and farming systems were set up that displayed several species of large marketable sized finfish and shellfish from RGCA facilities such as Asian Seabass, Tiger Grouper, Orange Spotted Grouper, Cobia, Tilapia, Black Tiger Shrimp, *L. vannamei* etc. Fry, fingerlings and juveniles of the above, as well as Artemia Biomass were also displayed in attractive lighted aquarium tanks. However, the major attraction in the pavilion was a Mangrove Mud Crab Sanctuary where RGCA created near natural conditions of the Mangrove Crab habitat. All these enclosures with both saline and freshwater systems were supported by RAS - Recirculation Aquaculture Systems that also was on display with RGCA scientists explaining the operation and the functioning of these high-tech systems.





A model of the Aquatic Quarantine Facility displaying receiving area, quarantine cubicle and the quarantine Lab was also set up. Activities of the NABL accredited Central Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory as well as a miniature version of a Marine Algal Lab with live mass algal cultures was displayed. A set up of an Aquaponics system - growing aquatic animals such as tilapia and plants in an integrated system, with participation from an entrepreneur was also presented and a major attraction at the pavilion. Square shaped HDPE Cages for open water bodies of actual dimensions as well as a model of a circular cage were displayed for the benefit of entrepreneurs and farmers interested in Cage farming. Attractive handouts/pamphlets on RGCA activities and services were also provided to the visitors.



Demonstration classes on Asian Seabass and Mud Crab aquaculture as well as on Cage fabrication, installation and Sea cage farming were held at the venue from time to time for the benefit of the delegates participating

in the event. The RGCA Scampi and Tilapia Farm was also the venue for the field trip organized by MPEDA for the benefit of delegates.

MACHLIPATNAM

As was done during the previous edition of Aqua Aquaria during 2013, a Seafood stall - "MACHLIPATNAM" was set up during this edition of Aqua Aquaria also. Seafood delicacies in the tastiest Andhra cuisine prepared from fresh farm produce from demonstration and experimental farms of RGCA and served at the stall, attracted large crowds throughout the duration of the event. Tilapia was sourced from the RGCA Tilapia Project at Manikonda, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, just around 25 kms from Vijayawada. Seabass and Cobia came from the RGCA Sea cage farm at Muttom in South Tamil Nadu.

The menu included a choice of whole plate sized fried Tilapia, Tilapia Kebabs and nuggets made from tilapia fillet, preparations with Seabass and Cobia steak as well as Shrimp. Items of the menu had a typical Indian flavor that appealed equally to the delegates who had come from all across the country. The stall also provided Takeaway packs and had a frozen fish counter where all these fish varieties were made available as degutted and deheaded fish, fish steaks and fish fillet in ½ Kg and 1 Kg frozen packs. The total sale during the three days from this stall was to the tune of Rs. 3.30 Lakhs.

Immediately after the inaugural programme of the event, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri. Chandra Babu Naidu, other Ministers,

MPs as well as several senior dignitaries visited the RGCA pavilion and spent almost an hour at the RGCA stall observing with keen interest, each and every species and aquaculture technology systems displayed and showered appreciation at the effort as well as information disseminated. The Hon'ble CM wrote *"Very good occasion to promote awareness about Aqua and all Marine Products. Lot of scope for developing this sector. I appreciate the MPEDA team"* in the visitors' book at the RGCA pavilion.

Both the RGCA Pavilion as well as the Seafood stall Machilipatnam attracted huge crowds and was one of the major attractions of the event. *"Never seen an Aquaculture Show of this kind with real aquatic organisms and technologies on display. A show par excellence and unique in every kind"* remarked several international delegates and speakers who attended this event.

All through the event, crowds thronged around the tanks taking pictures and videos and making the most of such a display by RGCA. It was with great difficulty that RGCA could close the stall at the end of the event with crowds pouring in and demanding that the show go on.

