

RGCA pavilion was the cynosure of all eyes at Aqua Aquaria India 2019 Show held at Hitex Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad

The 5th edition of Aqua Aquaria India (AAI), the largest aquaculture-cum-aquarium culture in Asia was held at HITEX Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad. The capital of Telangana, from August 30 to September 1, 2019, displaying the latest strides in aquaculture practices and ornamental fish breeding and rearing technology. A major objective of the high-profile event was providing an interactive platform to various stakeholders to deliberate measures that would fuel the growth of the industry and encourage diversification and intensification in sustainable manner.

'Taking Blue Revolution to India's Hinterland' was the focal theme of the three-day biennial exposition, organised by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), a nodal agency of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry dealing with promotion of marine products export and allied activities.

It was for the first time that such an event was held in Telangana, a non-costal state. The first edition of AAI was held in Chennai in 2011 and the second and third editions at Vijayawada in 2013 and 2015, respectively – all on the east coast of India. The fourth edition was held Mangalore in 2017, the first time on the west coast on the country.

Around 5,500 delegates from India and abroad participated in the mega event. Where 250 stalls displayed various production and harvest technologies, machinery and accessories in the export-oriented aquaculture as well as ornamental fishery sectors, more than 3,000 visitors attended the exhibition.

The delegates comprised farmers, entrepreneurs, hatchery operators, feed manufacturers, input suppliers, manufacturers and suppliers of various aquaculture and aquarium implements, from around the world. It also offered them an avenue for striking business deals besides getting an update on the recent developments in aquaculture practices and ornamental fish breeding and rearing technology in India and abroad.

Inaugural session of AAI-2019

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India., inaugurated event on August 30, 2019 and in the inaugural address, he made a strong request for sustained efforts to improve aquaculture yields, provide nutritional security to the people and generate employment opportunities, especially in rural areas. India's aquaculture sector has registered huge growth, but there is enough potential for its expansion through diversification, value addition and penetration the country's hinterland and non-coastal states, he pointed out.

"Sustainability and productivity have to be the twin mantra for India's aquaculture sector," he said, adding that the country holds

immense potential in developing inland aquaculture that can significantly boost exports, "it is a matter of great concern that the country tapped only a fraction of the aquaculture potential that is available to it. We utilise only about 40 percent of the available 2.36 million hectares of ponds and tanks for freshwater aquaculture," he said. Also the country had tapped about 15 percent of total potential of brackish water resource of 1.2 million hectares, he pointed out. Calling for efforts to improve yields, he said most of the Asian countries are focusing on advanced technology for increasing fish production and productivity.

India's freshwater aquaculture gives yields varying from 1.5 to 4.5 tons a hectare annually as against 10 to 15 tons in china and Israel. "India also needs to substantially increase its production for exports and domestic requirements," he added. Describing aquaculture as the "best alternative for reinforcing the fish sector," the Vice-President said there is immense scope for both horizontal and vertical expansion and importance has to be given to environment-friendly aquaculture in rural areas. Besides, branding and export-oriented aquaculture practices have to be adopted.

Nothing that the Central government has set a target to double the income of farmers by 2022, he pitched for better investments in the fields of aquaculture, especially in shrimp farming. "India is the fourth largest exporter of fish and the sector gives employment to more than 40.5 million people. It is also the second largest fish producer in the world with a production of 13.70 million tons during

2018-19. The country earns 10 percent of its total exports from fisheries. The contribution of fisheries to the Gross Domestic Product is about one percent and about 5.37 percent to the Agriculture GDP. But it has to be increased substantially," he remarked.

Aquaculture should be streamlined through a set of regulations and codes of practices for various subsectors with suitable penal provisions for violation. Mr. Naidu said, "Activities and responsibilities of different institutes working for the development of aquaculture with different plan and allocations are to be defined to avoid ambiguity and duplication. We need to invest in diversified aquaculture species and establishment of aquaculture estates, feed mills and ancillary industries," he observed.

The vice president also stated that the need to boost fish production was imperative to ensure food security to the country billion-strong population, "Since ever 16 percent of animal protein supplies originate from the fisheries sector, the sector is identified as a major factor contributing to food security," he added.

In his welcome address, Shri. K. S. Srinivas, IAS, Chairman, MPEDA / President RGCA said AAI 2019 would provide a unique opportunity to experience the latest technological interventions in the aquaculture and aquarium sector. "The Agriculture Export Policy of the Union Government aims to double the agriculture exports of the country to 60 billion dollars by 2022. In this context, the marine products have been performing well on the export front in recent

times. During 2018-19, India exported 14, 37, 445 MT. seafood worth USD. 6.8 billion. USA is the major market followed by the EU, South East Asia, China and Japan," he added.

The coastal shrimp aquaculture production has risen from 76,000 metric tons a decade ago to 6,83,472 metric tons during 2018-19, which is a phenomenal growth story after the introduction of exotic whiteleg shrimp (*L. vannamei*) in the country, he said, adding that the targeted production of shrimp from aquaculture is 11,00,000 metric tons by 2021-'22.



*Welcome address by Hon'ble Shri. K.S. Srinivas IAS,
Chairman MPEDA, President RGCA*

In his address, Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Mr. Talasani Srinivas Yadav said that after the formation of the state, Chief Minister Shri. K. Chandrashekar Rao has given priority to this sector by providing support to the farmers in the form of 100 percent grant and 80 percent subsidy for integrated Fisheries Development Programme. Besides fishermen are being insured for Rs. Six lakhs each under the PM Suraksha Bima Yojana.

“The State government has simplified the registration process for farmers for the expansion of aquaculture and put emphasis on measures like quality control and Research and Development,” he said. Andhra Pradesh Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Shri. Mopidevi Venkata Ramana talked about the importance of live feeds at shrimp hatcheries and suggested that MPEDA take a lead role in development of diseases-free polychaete worm.



AAI 2019 fifth edition inaugurated by Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Glimpses of RGCA pavilion

