

The Inaugural edition of the Annual Dr. E.G. Silas Endowment Lecture

RGCA organized the first annual edition of “Dr. E. G. Silas Endowment Lecture”, on 5th September 2013 at Technology Transfer Training & Administrative Complex of RGCA, Sirkali, as a part of its Technology Transfer mission. The event was organized as a tribute to the valuable contributions of Dr. E. G. Silas, one of the most revered personalities in the field of Fisheries & Aquaculture Research sector in the Country to RGCA as well as to the Aquaculture & Fisheries sector on the whole.

The programme was inaugurated by Hon’ble Justice Shri. K. Raviraja Pandian, Chairman CAA in the presence of Ms. Leena Nair IAS, President RGCA, Dr. E.G. Silas, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee of RGCA, Dr. B. Meenakumari, Deputy Director general (Fy), ICAR and Dr. A.G. Ponniah, Director, CIBA. World renowned Shrimp Pathologist Dr. Donald V. Lightner, Professor & Director of OIE Reference lab for Crustacean Diseases, University of Arizona, Tucson, USA delivered the Dr. E.G. Silas Endowment Lecture while experts in Shrimp Domestication, Dr. Shaun Moss and Mr. Steve Arce from Oceanic Institute, USA gave presentations on the “Overview of Selective Breeding in the Pacific White Shrimp *L. vannamei*” and “Biosecurity requirements in *L. vannamei* aquaculture” respectively.

At a time when the Shrimp Industry of the country is at crossroads, trying to prevent the dreaded Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS), (the disease which causes mass mortality/death of shrimps right from the time of stocking in farms) that devastated the shrimp culture industry in many of the Southeast Asian Countries, RGCA as a part of its mission mandate to transfer first hand and timely information on EMS to the Indian shrimp farmers, got Dr. Donald. V. Lightner, the discoverer of the etiological agent of this dreaded disease to deliver an interactive lecture on The Emerging diseases in Farmed Shrimp with special focus on “Early Mortality Syndrome”. RGCA took initiative to organize this event so as to apprise the Indian shrimp farmers, hatchery operators, feed processors etc about this emerging disease of the shrimps, as “shrimps” form the major seafood export item that facilitates to earn 1.2 billion dollars to the country.

RGCA also identified the necessity of an awareness lecture on to improve the best management practices in shrimp aquaculture for the benefit of Indian farmers, required to sustain the Country’s shrimp industry in a responsible manner. Accordingly, Dr. Shaun Moss, Acting President, Research & Development at the

Oceanic Institute Hawaii, the Pioneers in the development of Specific Pathogen Free stocks of *L. vannamei*, along with his team were invited to conduct a Workshop on “Biosecurity requirements in Shrimp Aquaculture” in the afternoon session during the event.



Dignitaries on the dais and participants from the aquaculture industry during the inaugural session of Dr. E. G. Silas Endowment Lecture



World renowned Shrimp pathologist Dr. Donald. V. Lightner from Arizona University USA delivering lecture on EMS in *Litopenaeus vannamei* (Left) Dr. E.G. Silas addressing the invitees of the programme (right)

The event, organized free by RGCA for a restricted audience was a highly successful event with an extremely high turnout. Participants included aqua farmers, shrimp hatchery operators, feed producers, exporters, scientists and academe about the emerging diseases in shrimp industry and the need for maintaining bio security.



Dr. B. Meenakumari, DDG, ICAR delivering speech during the Inauguration of Dr. E. G. Silas Endowment lecture (left) participants and invitees during the programme



Dr. Shaun Moss (left) and Dr. Steve Arch (right) delivering lectures on maturation and selective breeding of *L. vannamei* during the programme