A seminar on "Initiatives of MPEDA for promotion of Diversified Aquaculture in India, with special focus on Maharashtra and Gujarat States - Way forward" organized by MPEDA-RGCA on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Mumbai

MPEDA & RGCA organized a series of programmes in commemoration of the celebration of the golden jubilee of MPEDA & silver jubilee of RGCA, in this connection the 4<sup>th</sup> seminar on "Initiatives of MPEDA for promotion of diversified aquaculture in India, with a special focus on Maharashtra and Gujarat States - Way forward" sponsored by NFDB, Hyderabad on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Mumbai.

The seminar inaugurated by Shri. Virendra Tiwari, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mangrove Cell, Mumbai; Dr. C. N. Ravishankar, Director/Vice-Chancellor, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai, Dr. Ajitsinha Patil, President, Maharashtra Aqua Farmers Association, Shri. Uuvaraj Chowkilae, Joint Commissioner of Fisheries, Shri. Suresh J. Patel, President, Navashri Gujarat Aqua Farmers Association and Shri. Roozbeh Daruwalla, President, Sea food Export Association, Mumbai Region in the presence of Dr. M. Karthikeyan, Director, MPEDA; Shri. K. S. Pradeep, IFS, Secretary, MPEDA and many progressive Aqua farmers, hatchery operators, seafood exporters & Scientists from ICAR institutions and officials from Govt. of Fisheries dept.

Dr. M. Karthikeyan, Director, MPEDA delivered a welcome address and briefed the series of seminars organized on account of golden jubilee celebration of MPEDA, thanked NFDB for the fund support to organizing these seminars at the places Cochin, Vijayawada, Bhuvaneshwar and Mumbai.

During the inaugural function, the book "Towards Blue revolution" has been introduced among farmers, which is a guide to initiatives and projects of MPEDA-RGCA. The book is in both languages English and Marathi, translated into vernacular language by MPEDA, Regional Division, Mumbai for reaching the end farmer community.

The technical session was conducted in an interactive manner, where Dr. T. G. Manojkumar, Project Director (DA), RGCA delivered a lecture on diversified aquaculture and MPEDA-RGCA's initiatives about the same.

Dr. Anup Mandal, Project Director (SB & A), RGCA delivered lecture on best management practices for Mangrove mud crab and its scope in states like Maharashtra and Gujarat. Shri Nitin Nikam from West Coast Aquafarm, Maharashtra talked about the business opportunity with GIFT aquaculture in Maharashtra and Dr. G. K. Dinakaran, Senior Scientific Officer, RGCA presented about the best husbandry practices of seabass aquaculture.

The "Panel Discussions", was a highly interactive session, wherein several delegates representing farmer groups and entrepreneurs clear their doubts on various aspects of diversified aquaculture.

More than 300 delegates attended the event from several districts of Maharashtra and Gujarat which includes Aqua farmers, Hatchery operators, exporters, entrepreneurs, aquaculture professionals, Govt. officials and academe.



Dignitaries on the Dias









GIFT Tilapia Aquaculture – a business model I Shri Nitin Nikam from West Coast Aquafarm Maharashtra

Technical Panel discussion on diversified aquaculture



Aquaculture stakeholders attending the seminar.