

MPEDA-RGCA organised 2nd Edition of India Tilapia Summit 2022

MPEDA-RGCA organized the 2nd edition of Tilapia India Summit 2022, on 30th June 2022 at Hotel Avenue Centre, Panampalli Nagar, Cochin, Kerala sponsored by National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Government of India.

The Tilapia India Summit 2022 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chairman, MPEDA / President, RGCA Dr. K. N. Raghavan, IRS, in presence of Dr. C.V Mohan, Principal Scientist, Sustainable Aquaculture, WorldFish, Malaysia, Shri. K. S. Pradeep, IFS, Secretary, MPEDA, Dr. M. Karthikeyan, Director, MPEDA, Dr. M. K. Rammohan, JD, Mr. M.K. Ram Mohan, JD(QC), MPEDA, Dr. P. Anil Kumar, JD (M), MPEDA, Mrs. Elsammathack, DD (Aqua), MPEDA, Dr. Joice V. Thomas, CEO, NETFISH and many progressive aqua farmers.



Hon'ble Chairman, MPEDA / President, RGCA Dr. K. N. Raghavan, IRS lighting the inaugural lamp

Dr. M. Karthikeyan, Director, MPEDA delivered welcome address and briefed on the emergence of MPEDA-RGCA, initiation of various projects across India, core

activities, and its achievement towards the aquaculture process and export. He emphasized that since the inception of MPEDA in 1972, the organization has made tremendous growth in terms of seafood exports, with the export of 7.76 billion (57000 crores) in the year 2021. Therefore, MPEDA established RGCA during 1996-97 which has grown over the last 25 years, has come out with a species viable technologies, and has been contributing to various diversified fish species including Seabass, Crab, Tilapia, Cobia, and Pompano.



A multi-species aquaculture complex (MAC) was established in Vallarpadam, Cochin for contributing to the Western Coastal states, aiming to supply seeds of Tilapia, producing high-health seeds of monodon, seeds of GIFT, and Pearl spot to the farmers across Kerala and to the west coast, particularly Karnataka and Gujarat.

While realizing the importance of Tilapia, MPEDA-RGCA had signed an MOU with WorldFish which is working on GIFT. In 2011, it established Nucleus Breeding Centre at Manikonda farm wherein for the past 10 to 11 years, it has produced G10, and has been disseminating the technology to the entrepreneurs, providing broodstock seeds directly to the farmers for growth.

He emphasized that only technology transfer can help in promoting a large-scale production because China and Indonesia were playing a major role in the production and export of Tilapia in the world with over 12 billion exports.

He expressed that Tilapia is the 2nd largest trade species and the farmers are the backbone to expanding the culture, and to ensure those quality products on a large scale and in the long run to get into the export market.

He listed out RGCA's initiatives in conducting the Tilapia summit in Vijayawada and Cochin to promote the farmers to establish and operate more hatcheries in order to ensure continuous seed availability across the states, and the technology propagated among farmers.

Further, he assured the farmers that the existing marketing issues can be resolved by tapping the export market.



Shri. K. S. Pradeep, IFS, Secretary, MPEDA felicitated that the summit would definitely help in better understanding of the GIFT Tilapia propagation. MPEDA's research and development wing RGCA played a key role with the help of WorldFish and came up with the propagation techniques of Tilapia which support the farmers about the scientific methods of GIFT propagation.

Dr. M. K. Ram Mohan, Joint Director, (QC) MPEDA expressed that care should be taken to provide quality inputs such as feed and seed for quality fish production and the need for the development of a national database of accredited hatcheries for the purchase of quality seeds.



Dr. P. Anil Kumar, Joint Director, (Marketing) MPEDA revealed that Tilapia has a lot of scope in the export market and the global export value for tilapia is more than 12 billion. He added that India has a great scope to increase the export from 30 crores to 8000 crores. To achieve this, the production should be increased than at the present level. Cost competitiveness can only be attained through the reduction in production costs. RGCA and WorldFish are playing a great role to reduce production costs and increase productivity.

Ms. Elsamma Ithack, Deputy Director (Aquaculture), MPEDA briefed that Aquaculture production in India attained progressive growth through diversification. Fish production has been increased by targeting three aspects such as an expansion of the area, productivity, and diversification. Moreover, Kerala state has great potential for diversification and focusing on two species GIFT & Seabass as these are suitable for culture in the water bodies of Kerala. She revealed that MPEDA has recognized the scope of aquaculture diversification and gives special attention to increase production and also export of the species which can be attained by effective utilization of potential resources, technologies like Biofloc, RAS, Intensified modern culture practices, etc. Further MPEDA has been conducting training, seminars, exhibitions, awareness campaigns, technology demonstration programs, etc. She requested the farmers to come forward and make use of these programmes.



Dr. Jose V Thomas, Chief Executive (NETFISH) advised the farmers to take responsibility for good planning in each step of the process including site selection, pond preparation, selection of quality seed & feed and also to adhere to the guidelines of fish farming.



Dr. C. V. Mohan, Principal Scientist, Sustainable Aquaculture, WorldFish, Malaysia, delivered a keynote address. He pointed out that the primary interest of WorldFish is to promote aquatic food and aquatic food systems for a healthy planet and healthy people and to promote a responsible aquatic food system.

WorldFish has been focusing on the production of aquatic foods, which are climate-friendly, nutrition-sensitive, safe, accessible, and affordable price range. Further, he explained the collaborative research of GIFT Satellite Breeding programme between MPEDA-RGCA and WorldFish, to make India to attain the top position with respect to aquatic food production and export; He emphasized the important role played by RGCA in the project and added that the institute has invested a lot of resources both in terms of research and development, and diversification.

In his speech, he explained on the advanced research carried by WorldFish and informed that the prime focus is not just growth but more resistance to disease, better feed conversion efficiency, and hardy to stress factors like low oxygen.

Release of the Handbook on “Better Management Practices for Sustainable Aquaculture”

During the programme, the Handbook on Better Management Practices for Sustainable Aquaculture was released by the Hon’ble Chairman MPEDA, President RGCA Dr. K. N. Raghavan, IRS and the first copy of the book was received by Dr. S. Kandan, Director, RGCA.



Hon'ble Chairman MPEDA, President RGCA Dr. K. N. Raghavan releases the handbook on Best Management Practices for Sustainable Aquaculture



Hon'ble Chairman MPEDA, President RGCA Dr. K. N. Raghavan, IRS, delivered the inaugural address. During his address, he announced the reduction of the Tilapia seed price, reduced from Rs. 6.30 to Rs. 3.30, an on spot decision taken as per the open requisition from the farmers. He appreciated the Director, RGCA for his immediate response on the revision of the rate of Tilapia seed.

Further, he pointed out that the three countries Japan, South Korea, and China have become leading countries only because of export. These countries earned a 10% additional growth in each year. But in the last 75 years, our country achieved just 10% growth. On realizing the importance of the export, Indian Government established MPEDA. Last year, Rs. 57,000 crores was earned through export of Marine products which is an all-time time record. This year, the target was fixed for 1 lakh crores. He pointed out that RGCA has huge potential to achieve this target which can be easily attained by resolving seed rate, feed cost, seed production, and reducing the production cost. The other challenges that exist in the sector include anti-biotic influence and diseases. He stressed that RGCA should strengthen its

research and development to address these issues and increase production and export for sustainable development of the aquaculture sector.

Shri. P. N. Vinod, Dy., Director, MPEDA delivered vote of thanks followed by the technical session.

Dr. C. V. Mohan, Principal Scientist, Sustainable Aquaculture, WorldFish, Malasiya, led a technical session on GIFT Aquaculture: an Overview and the session was moderated by Dr. M. Karthikeyan, Director, MPEDA.

Dr. S. Kandan, Director, RGCA detailed MPEDA initiatives for GIFT Aquaculture in India.

Dr. T. G. Manoj Kumar, Project Director (D&A), RGCA presented a theme - GIFT Aquaculture a boon for Kerala State.

Dr. Anup Mandal, Project Director (S&B), RGCA presented on the topic Importance of Selective Breeding of GIFT for Sustainable Aquaculture in India.

At the end, a question and answer session opened for the farmers during which many doubts raised by the farmers were clarified by the experts regarding GIFT aquaculture. More than 350 farmers across Kerala state attended the summit.



Panel Experts with organizing Committee of ITS - 2022