

Inauguration of the 3rd Phase of Aquatic Quarantine Facility

The third phase of the Aquatic Quarantine Facility at Neelankarai, comprising of thirteen cubicles supported by 6 receiving areas and other requisite ancillary structures and equipment was completed and inaugurated on 5th September 2013. This expansion was partly funded by MoC&I under the ASIDE scheme and partly by MoA through NFDB and built by RGCA as per RGCA norms. The quarantine cubicles and receiving area of the third and final phase was made operational within 6 months period as assured by RGCA to the MoA and Stakeholders.

World renowned shrimp Pathologist, Dr. Donald V. Lightner, Professor and Director, OIE Reference Laboratory for Crustacean (Penaeid Shrimp) Diseases, School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Science, University of Arizona inaugurated the facility in the presence of Ms. Leena Nair, Chairman MPEDA and President RGCA, Shri. S. Vijayakumar, IAS, Secretary, DAHDF, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Dr. E. G. Silas, Chairman Scientific Advisory Committee of RGCA, Dr. B. Meenakumari, DDG (Fy), ICAR, and Dr. Shaun Moss, Acting President and CEO of the Research & Development wing of the Oceanic Institute, Hawaii and many other dignitaries.

The total strength of the Aquatic Quarantine Facility has now been boosted to 20 cubicles with a total quarantine capacity of approx. 2.37 lakh *L. vannamei* broodstock per annum.

The foundation stone for the third and Final Phase of the Aquatic Quarantine Facility was also unveiled on the same day. The final phase of the facility will have 13 quarantine cubicles, boosting the total quarantine capacity of the facility to 20 cubicles which can quarantine approximately 2,70,000 brooders/annum.

The result of the strengthened quarantine infrastructure of AQF by RGCA is expected to cause further surge in the country's shrimp production and exports in the years to come. Through good management practice and highly professional and effective quarantine works, AQF serves as a cornerstone to prevent the possible negative impact resulting from the introduction and the spread of serious trans-boundary aquatic animal diseases.



Dr. Donald V. Lightner, Professor and Director, OIE Reference Laboratory for Crustacean (Penaeid Shrimp) Diseases, School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Science, University of Arizona inaugurated the facility in the presence of Ms. Leena Nair, Chairman MPEDA and President RGCA

Foundation-Stone laying ceremony for the additional Phase at the Aquatic Quarantine Facility

The Aquatic Quarantine Facility for *L. vannamei* (AQF), which is established and operated by MPEDA-RGCA at Neelankarai, Chennai poises to expand its

quarantine infrastructure by laying the foundation stone for an additional phase- the phase IV. The existing facility has a quarantine infrastructure of three phases in which 20 quarantine cubicles are housed. With the addition of phase IV, the facility will house a total of 26 quarantine cubicles. The existing quarantine infrastructure of AQF will be increased by 1,23,750 brooders per annum with the additional phase.

The foundation stone laying ceremony for the new phase was held on 13th June 2018 and was marked by unveiling of plaque at the AQF premises, by the chief guest of the programme Shri. Tarun Shridhar, IAS, Secretary, Department of Animal and Husbandry Dairying & Fisheries, in presence of Dr. A. Jayathilak, I.A.S, Chairman MPEDA / President RGCA, Shri. Sree Kumar, Secretary, MPEDA, Dr. S. Kandan, Project Director, RGCA, Shri. K. Gopal, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Fisheries, Tamil Nadu, Dr. C. Gopal, Member Secretary CAA, Dr. K.K. Vijayan, Director CIBA and other key stakeholders of the Aquaculture Industry.

The establishment of the new phase is funded by MoA as a part of the Blue Revolution. The new phase envisages to expand *L. vannamei* farming in other potential states, like Gujarat, Odisha, Maharashtra and Kerala. The event was attended by *vannamei* hatchery operators, who are the key users of the AQF services.

Shri. B. Sree Kumar, Secretary, MPEDA welcomed the gathering, followed by key note address by the Chairman MPEDA & President RGCA Dr. A. Jayathilak, I.A.S. Shri. Tarun Shridhar, IAS, Secretary DADF, delivered the inaugural address

followed by felicitation address by Shri. K. Gopal, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Fisheries, Tamil Nadu.

