

International Seminar cum Workshop on Mud crab Aquaculture and Fisheries Management (ISMAF 2013)

A three-day International Seminar cum Workshop on Mud crab Aquaculture and Fisheries Management (ISMAF 2013) was organized by RGCA in collaboration with the Aquaculture Department of Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), Philippines from 10th to 12th April 2013 at the Technology Transfer Training and Administrative Complex (TTTAC), Karaimedu, Sirkazhi. The event was inaugurated by Dr. (Mrs.) B. Meenakumari, Deputy Director General (Fy) of Indian Council of Agriculture in presence of Ms. Leena Nair, Chairman MPEDA & President RGCA, Dr. E. G. Silas, Former Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute & Former Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agriculture University, Shri. T. Munuswamy, IAS, Dist. Collector of Nagapattinam, Dr. Emilia T. Qunitio, SEAFDEC, Shri. Y. C. Thampi Sam Raj, Project Director, RGCA and a gathering of eminent scientists and mud crab technocrats from across the globe. Dr. E.G. Silas, Chairman SAC of RGCA delivered the Keynote address at the event.

This unique workshop was attended by about 130 participants represented from 12 foreign countries such as Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Kenya, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bahrain, Palau Islands, Australia and France. The seminar was focused on the importance of mud crab culture in boosting a country's economy, through sustainable culture techniques and also to conserve the natural mud crab resources. This was the first Aquaculture related seminar in India that had such a huge International participation.

The delegates placed their ideas in the form of 31 presentations and 10 posters. The seminar was followed by two very important workshops. The first workshop had two segments, one on 'biology and husbandry' and the other on 'genetics and ecology'. The second workshop was on mud crab 'fisheries management'. These workshops were lively and delegates discussed several issues regarding various aspects of mud crab research. In a unanimous resolution during the event, the delegates agreed to re-emphasize the name of Mud Crab as the 'mangrove crab'. The programme concluded on the 12th April with field visits to RGCA mud crab hatchery and demonstration farm.



Dignitaries on the dais and participants of National and International origin during the Inaugural session of the workshop ISMAF-13



Participants observing mangrove crab larval stages and live feed culture in Mangrove Crab hatchery during the workshop