

A seminar on 'Ornamental Fish Farming: The way towards the Rainbow Revolution' organised on occasion of 'National Fisheries Farmers Day' at Marine Biological Research

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July 10, 1957 is a memorable day for fish farmers in India. On this day, scientist Dr. Hiralal Chaudhari (21.11.1921 to 12.09.2014) in collaboration with Dr. Kolliyil Alikunhi (27.05.1918 to 26.09.2010) achieved the first success in the induced breeding of major Indian carp fish. This led to a significant increase in the seed production and consequently conservation of Indian Major Carp fishes. As a result, it was became the beginning of the 'Blue Revolution' was laid in India.

Considering the importance of 10th July, in the year 2001, the Government of India has declared 10th July as 'National Fish Farmers Day'. Henceforth, the National Fish Farmers Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm by fish farmers all over the country. The year 2025 is celebrated as 25th year of 'Fish Farmer Day' by the 'Marine Biological Research Station (MBRS)' located in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra under the Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Agricultural University. To mark the occasion, a seminar on the topic 'Ornamental Fish Farming: The way towards the Rainbow Revolution' was organized at the research station.

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Ketan Chaudhari, Head of Marine Biological Research Station, Senior Scientific Officer, and Shri. Shriram Hatwalane, Senior Ornamental Fish Breeder from Mumbai, and other dignitaries by presenting wreaths to the portraits of Dr. Hiralal Chaudhari and Dr. Kolliyil Alikunhi. All the attendees greeted them on this occasion.

The ornamental fish professionals (farmers, breeders and traders) present in the opening session of the seminar were welcomed. On this occasion, Dr. Ketan Chaudhari, Senior Scientific Officer of Marine Biological Research Station, Ratnagiri, Dr. Asif Pagarkar, Professor, as well as Mr. Fahad Jamadar, the President of 'Ratnagiri Ornamental Fish Farmers Trust', as well as Mr. Shriram Hatwalne and Mr. Vispi Mistry were present on the dias. On this occasion, about 40 ornamental fish professionals from the Ratnagiri, Sindhudurga, Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Nashik, Jalgaon, Pune, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur and Solapur districts of Maharashtra as well as from the bordering states Karnataka (Dist. Belgaum) and Goa were present.

Dr. Asif Pagarkar, in his introductory speech, mentioned that the Marine Biological Research Station is the pioneered institution for research, training and guidance in fish farming in the Maharashtra state. Also, he expressed thanks to all farmers, since most of the present attendees have received training in this research station. Mr. Hrishikesh Bhatkar, District Coordinator, UNDP Project, Mangrove Unit, Ratnagiri presented on the types of fish farming practices in mangrove area and the subsidy schemes. During this seminar, various fish entrepreneurs were mentored on various aspects. Mr. Shriram Hatwalane expressed the hope that the government should take action to increase the ornamental fish farming business. While Mr. Vispi Mistry (Breeder from Mumbai) expressed the hope that such guidance programs should be organized every year. He also expressed views regarding importance of breeding of exportable ornamental fishes.

On this occasion, Mr. Nitin Bapat, Jalgaon; Mr. Javed Mhetar, Kolhapur; Mr. Vikas Patil, Belgaum; Mr. Mansur Patil, Gadhinglaj; Mr. Chetan Salunke, Pune; Mr. Rakesh Sawant, Ghatkopar, Mumbai; Mrs. Rupali and Mr. Jagdish Mukadam, Kalyan, Thane; Mr. Mubarak Sutar, Kagwad, Belgaum all said that they had undergone various trainings at the Marine Biological Research Station and that the training and guidance were being used in their profession. Mr. Rajkiran Satam, Dahisar, Mumbai; Mr. Digvijay Gore, Mr. Sachin Suware, Ratnagiri, Mr. Suyog Bhagwat, Ratnagiri; Mr. Albert Amanna, Ambernath, Thane; Mr. Kishore Samant, Kurla; Mr. Tanveer Saeed, Mumbai; Mr. Mathew D'Silva, Dr. Subin Mathew and Mr. Mayur Dev, Mumbai actively participated in the seminar.

In the last session, all the active and prominent fish traders and farmers present were given certificates of appreciation by the dignitaries for their work in the field of fisheries and for their active participation. During the presidential address, Dr. Ketan Chaudhari expressed that if farmers as well as traders in any field come together, they can help each other to remove obstacles in the business. He also congratulated the workers of this organization for the formation of the organization 'Ratnagiri Ornamental Fish Farmers' in the spirit of cooperation. He also assured them of their necessary cooperation in the future. The program was moderated by Mrs. Apoorva Sawant (S.R.A.) while the vote of thanks was given by Prof. Sachin Satam, Assistant Research Officer, MBRS, Ratnagiri.

For the successful implementation of this program, special guidance received from the Dr. Sanjay Bhawe, Honorable Vice Chancellor; Dr. Makarand Joshi, Director of Extension Education and Dr. Prashant Shahare, Director of Research, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Agricultural University, Dapoli. For the successful implementation of this program, under the guidance of Dr. Ketan Chaudhari, Senior Scientific Officer, Dr. Asif Pagarkar, Professor; Dr. Harish Dhamagaye, Curator and Professor; Prof. Narendra Chogale and Prof. Sachin Satam, Assistant Research Officers; Mrs. V. R. Sadavarte, Mrs. A. N. Sawant, Senior Research Assistant; Mr. Ramesh Sawardekar, Senior

Laboratory Assistant and Shri Manish Shinde, Aquarium Mechanic, made special efforts.



Photo 1) Dr. Ketan Chaudhari, Senior Scientific Officer, Sr. Scientific Officer, MBRS, Ratnagiri; Shriram Hatwalane, Shri. Vispi Mistry, Shri. Nitin Bapat, Javed Mhetar, Dr. Asif Pagarkar, etc., offering wreaths to the portraits of Dr. Hiralal Chaudhari and Dr. Kolliyil Alikunhi on the occasion of National Fish Farmer Day.



Photo-2) Dr. Ketan Chaudhari, Senior Scientific Officer, Marine Biological Research Station, Ratnagiri, giving guidance at a seminar organized on the occasion of National Fish Farmer Day



Photo-3) Guidance given at a seminar organized on the occasion of National Fisheries Farmer Day by Senior Fisheries Expert Shri. Vispi Mistry along with Shriram Hatwalane, Dr. Ketan Chaudhary, Senior Scientific Officer and Dr. Asif Pagarkar, Professor, Marine Biological Research Station, Ratnagiri and Fahad Jamadar, President, Ratnagiri Ornamental Fish Trust



Photo-4) Expert Fish Breeder Mr. Shriram Hatwalane, along with Mr. Vispi Mistry; Dr. Ketan Chaudhari, Senior Scientific Officer and Dr. Asif Pagarkar, Professor of Marine Biological Research Station, Ratnagiri and Fahad Jamadar, President, Ratnagiri Ornamental Fish Farmer Trust, while giving guidance in a seminar organized on the occasion of National Fish Farmer Day



Photo-5) Dr. Ketan Chaudhari, Senior Scientific Officer and Dr. Asif Pagarkar, Professor, Marine Biological Research Station, Ratnagiri, presenting certificates of appreciation to the farmers for their work in the ornamental fisheries sector at a seminar organized on the occasion of National Fisheries Farmers Day.



Photo-6) Attendee fish farmers and scientists of Marine Biological Research Station, Ratnagiri present at a seminar organized on the occasion of National Fish Farmers Day