

ICAR-CIFA organized a Virtual ‘National Awareness programme’ on ‘CIFA-GI Scampi’: the Genetically Improved and Fast-Growing Strain of Scampi for Higher Production and Income’

ICAR-CIFA in collaboration with Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD), Government of India, and NFDB, Hyderabad organized a virtual National Awareness programme on ‘CIFA-GI Scampi’:the Genetically improved and fast growing strain of scampi for higher production and income” on 27 July 2021. The objective of the programme was to create awareness about the ‘CIFA GI Scampi’ -a genetically improved and fast-growing strain of giant freshwater prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* and partner with the potential state fisheries departments and scampi hatcheries in disseminating the improved strain across India. A total of 364 persons including state fisheries department officials from 9 states, scampi hatchery operators and farmers, scientists and academicians participated in the one-day awareness programme.

The Chief Guest of the programme was Shri. J.N. Swain, IAS, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD), Government of India, New Delhi and the Guests of honour were Dr. J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), ICAR, Dr. C. Suvarna, IFS, Chief Executive, NFDB and Shri Sagar Mehra, Joint Secretary (Inland fisheries), Department of Fisheries, MoFAHD. Dr. S.K. Swain, Director, ICAR-CIFA welcomed the guests and gave a brief introduction of CIFA-GI Scampi which was developed by ICAR-CIFA in collaboration with WorldFish, Penang, Malaysia through selective breeding from different stocks of scampi collected from Gujarat, Kerala and Odisha. The new variety has so far completed 12 generations with cumulative response of 50%. He urged the house to involve actively for a fruitful discussion and make an action plan to disseminate the CIFA-GI scampi to the farmers’ fields.

The inaugural session was followed by a technical session. Dr. Bindu R. Pillai, Principal Scientist & Principal Investigator, PMMSY Scampi project, ICAR-CIFA gave a brief presentation on ‘CIFA-GI Scampi’. She highlighted the scope and importance of scampi, global scenario and aquaculture production and reasons for the declining production of scampi in India. She also explained the process of development of GI-Scampi at ICAR-CIFA and the encouraging outcomes of on-farm demonstration of GI scampi in farmers’ fields and detailed the proposed dissemination plan of CIFA-GI Scampi. Her presentation was followed by an interaction session among the state fisheries department officers, scampi hatchery owners and farmers. Representatives of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Tamil Nadu participated in the interaction session and agreed to support the dissemination of the improved breed of scampi. Scampi hatchery operators from AP and West Bengal also participated in the interaction session and gave inputs.

Dr. P.K. Sahoo, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA summarized the entire discussion in the wrap up session and the meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. D. Panda, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFA.

