

Report on NAHEP-CAAST Project Launch Workshop @ ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai

ICAR-CIFE has bagged the prestigious competitive grant under National Agricultural Higher Education Project funded by Govt. of India and World Bank and administered by ICAR-Education Division for **“Development of Energy Efficient and Environment Protective Aquaculture Technologies for Degraded Soils”**. The project would be implemented between 2018 and 2021 with a budget outlay of 1994 lacs. The NAHEP Project was formally launched by Dr. N.S. Rathore, Deputy Director General (Agri. Edn.), ICAR & National Director (NAHEP) on 15th September 2018 at an official ceremony in ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai.

Dr. Gopal Krishna, Director, ICAR-CIFE & Principal Investigator of the Project welcomed the Chief Guest and presented a snapshot of the Project. Explaining the rationale behind the project, he underscored the opportunities for aquaculture in the inland salt affected and degraded soils of north and north-west India. Emphasising the need to develop energy efficient, eco-friendly, ICT enabled and economically feasible technologies for promoting entrepreneurship and employment, he said that the NAHEP Project would usher CIFE to become a formidable Global Knowledge Centre by developing a Centre of Excellence in Inland Saline Aquaculture.

Dr. N. S. Rathore in his address congratulated the CIFE team for coming out with this novel and winning proposal and urged the challenges ahead in fulfilling the project objectives within an agreed timeframe. Giving a brief outline of different components of NAHEP, he reiterated that the funding would not be a constraint for any innovative ideas or research proposals and wished to see ICAR-CIFE emerge as a formidable think tank in fisheries science. He emphasized that energy efficiency and environment conservation have become essential to any technology development in the present era and hoped that the Project would come out with technological breakthroughs to demonstrate. Further, he urged the scientists to avail the international and national HRD opportunities offered by the Project and upgrade their skill. He called for integration of recent advances in artificial intelligence. He exhorted that compliance with 3Ts of governance (Transparency, creating a Trouble free work environment and Timely action) would be the key to success of the Project. He later inaugurated the NAHEP Project office at ICAR-CIFE.

Dr. N.P. Sahu, Dean (Academics), ICAR-CIFE proposed a formal vote of thanks while Dr. Gayatri Tripathi, Principal Scientist & Nodal Officer, NAHEP Project anchored the Programme.