

ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai Organized
Ornamental Fish Fair and Aquarium Science Workshop

31st January and 1st February, 2026

(For Website)

The Ornamental Fish Fair and Aquarium Science Workshop was successfully organized by ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai on 31st January and 1st February, 2026 as a landmark event in the history of ornamental fisheries in Maharashtra and CIFE for the first time. The program was likely the first ever joint initiative between the ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) and the Maharashtra Aquaculture Farmers Association (MAFA) along with several partners like IFA, Growel Pets Care (Intan), Sams Discus, Discus Ninja, Utekar Fisheries, EHEIM etc. with the primary objective of promoting scientific aquarium management, strengthening ornamental fish farming practices, fostering interaction among researchers, farmers, industry stakeholders and hobbyists, and enhancing public awareness about ornamental fisheries as a viable livelihood and recreational activity. The event was inaugurated by Dr. J. K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries and Education) as the Chief Guest in gracious presence of Dr. N. Ramaswami, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Maharashtra, Dr. B. K. Behera, Chief Executive, National Fisheries Development Board and Dr. Abhay Thakur, VP, MAFA, who emphasized the growing scope and economic potential of the ornamental fish sector in India and Fair like this will create awareness among the people which will help for holistic growth of the sector . Dr. N. P. Sahu, Director, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai welcome all the participants during the inauguration of the technical workshops and also in the Inaugural function of the events and elaborated the objectives of organizing the events collaborating the entrepreneurs and scientists to meet out the challenges and describing the roadmap of its growth having tremendous potential and business opportunity in the ornamental sector. The Aquarium Science Workshop was conducted through five well-structured modules, namely Basic Aquarium Management, Aquarium Fish Diseases and Their Control, Live and Formulated Feed in Aquarium Management, Ornamental Fish Breeding and Rearing, and Advanced Aquascaping, each of which witnessed the participation of around 100 ornamental fish farmers and students reflecting strong interest and active engagement. The Ornamental Fish Fair attracted an overwhelming public response, with a total

footfall exceeding 10,000 visitors, making it the highest public gathering ever recorded in the history of CIFE. A total of 11 leading companies from the ornamental fish industry participated in the event, showcasing a wide range of products and technologies through 25 exhibition stalls, thereby providing valuable exposure to farmers, entrepreneurs and hobbyists. Aqua Fest was also an integral component of the event, wherein participants, especially school and college students, creatively explored their imagination through paintings and drawings based on the theme “Life Under Water – The Colourful Aquatic World,” adding an educational and artistic dimension to the programme and enhancing awareness about aquatic biodiversity among young minds. The event further featured the “Best Aquarium Fish” competition, which received enthusiastic participation from 220 hobbyists and ornamental fish keepers across five categories, namely Guppy, Goldfish, Betta, Discus and Flower Horn, encouraging quality ornamental fish keeping and best aquarium management practices. During the valedictory session, Dr. Vijay Suryawanshi, Commissioner of Fisheries, Maharashtra State Fisheries Department, highlighted the importance of organizing such program to promote ornamental fisheries, enhance farmer income and create employment opportunities. The students of CIFE organized an extraordinary cultural program in both the days, where unique cultural dances of the various states of our country were performed in a highly professional manner which added much more value and entertainment to this Ornamental Fair and the Workshop

Overall, the Ornamental Fish Fair and Aquarium Science Workshop emerged as a highly successful outreach and capacity-building programme, setting a new benchmark for collaborative efforts between academic institutions, farmer organizations and industry stakeholders in advancing the ornamental fisheries sector. Dr. Debajit Sarma, HoD, Aquaculture and Convener of the program proposed vote of thanks to all the partners, associates and students who have shown tremendous interest and commitment in bringing and showcasing such an extraordinary events for the first time in Maharashtra. The displays of unique colorful Japanese Koi Carp, High Value Flower Horn, Gold Fish, Discus made this Ornamental Fair and Aquarium Science Workshop a memorable one for the CIFEans and Mumbaikars.