

ICAR- sponsored twenty-one day winter school on “Smart Feed for Smart Aquaculture” organised by Fish Nutrition, Biochemistry and Physiology Division, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai during 7 to 27 January, 2026.

Inaugural session:

Fish Nutrition, Biochemistry and Physiology Division, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai organised a 21-day winter school on “**Smart Feed for Smart Aquaculture**” for the Scientists of the ICAR/ Faculty of the Central Agricultural University (CAU) /State Agricultural University (SAU) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Mumbai during 7-27 January, 2026. A total of 22 participants (Male: 17; Female: 5) from different institution have participated in the winter school. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. B. Meenakumari, former Chairperson of National Biodiversity Authority, Former DDG (Fisheries), ICAR, New Delhi & Former Director ICAR-CIFT, Kochi in the presence of Dr. N. P. Sahu, Director (Acting), Dr. K.N. Mohanta, Head, Fish Nutrition, Biochemistry and Physiology Division, ICAR-CIFE (Course Director) and Dr. Prem Kumar, Principal Scientist, Fish Nutrition, Biochemistry and Physiology Division, ICAR-CIFE (Course Coordinator). A very comprehensive and user-friendly training manual comprised of both theory and practical classes on smart feed for smart aquaculture was released by the chief guest. In the inaugural address, Dr. B. Meenakumari highlighted the importance of smart feed to be utilised in smart aquaculture for maintaining sustainability and achieving ambitious targets of government of India to increase aquaculture production of the country. She emphasised the importance of such winter school in equipping the scientific workforce of the country to be well equipped and help in achieving the vision of 2047 by the government of India. In the welcome address, Dr. N. P. Sahu highlighted the credibility of the apt title for the winter school in today’s scenario. He spoke that the hands on 21-day programme will make the participants well aware of nutritional requirement of fish and shell fish, feed formulation protocols, necessities of advance technologies, socio-economic status of aqua-farmers. Dr. K. N. Mohanta emphasized the importance of broodstock & larval rearing diet, system & species specific feed for the sustainable development of aquaculture. Dr. Prem Kumar gave the brief outline of the winter school.



In the current winter school, the knowledge of the trainees on recent advances in fish nutrition research such as nutrient requirement, feed formulation, novel feed resources, nutrient and energy budgeting, metabolic modifier, nutrient digestion, climate smart feed to mitigate the biotic and abiotic stress of fish, feed additives & nutraceuticals, production of designer / nutrient enriched fish, balancing the gut microbial health, broodstock and larval feed, ornamental fish feed, live feed and their enrichment, feeding protocol, feed management practices and feed standard were refreshed. Further, four different lecturers from the external faculties viz. Dr. Samiran Nandi from ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneshwar, Dr. J. Syama Dayal from ICAR-CIBA, Chennai, Dr. Ashish Kumar Jha, from Veraval Centre of ICAR-CIFT, Gujarat and Dr. Neeraj Kumar from ICAR-NIASM, Baramati were organized. Apart from the theory and practical classes, four field visits were organised. Trainees visited the Versova dry fish market and fish landing centre, Utekar pet care services (Ornamental fish unit), Borivali East, Hugopharm Technologies (S. B. Panchal and company) and TATA Mahseer hatchery at Lonavala. All these visits were valuable for holistic development of participants by touching the aspects of extension, research and practicability. The programmes concluded with interactive discussions, trainee's feedback and vote of thanks by Dr. Manish Jayant.





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