

Snapper Seeds Tech developed with DBT support dedicated to Nation

New Delhi, Dec 28: The Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu formally released the technology on Snapper Seed Production developed under the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India sponsored R&D Project at CMFRI, at ICAR-CMFRI. He dedicated it to the Nation by handing over it to two progressive fish farmers on 7th December, 2020 in the presence of Shri Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Culture and Youth Affairs, Govt of Andhra Pradesh.



John's snapper seeds globally have only been produced in Singapore and that too with limited success. Keeping this in view, ICAR-CMFRI, Visakhapatnam Regional Centre started developing broodstock with the support of Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India sponsored R&D Project. This is the first instance in the country that snapper seeds have been produced. With production of snapper seeds on a consistent basis, Indian mariculture is poised for a new surge with exponential increase in maricultured finfish production.

The present success has been the outcome of a Department of Biotechnology (DBT) funded project entitled "Developing a new candidate species for mariculture; marine finfish John's snapper, *Lutjanus johnii* (BT/PR32023/AAQ/3/944/2019)" implemented at ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Visakhapatnam.

The Hon'ble Vice President of India lauded the commendable effort put in by ICAR-CMFRI in developing the marine capture fisheries and mariculture of the country. He appreciated the efforts put in and the scientific inputs emanating from this institute contributing to sustainable development of marine fisheries in the country. Marine cage farming and availability of quality seeds round-the year of commercially important finfishes are two path-breaking achievements that have provided the much needed impetus for mariculture development in the country.

He further stated that snapper seed production technology which is developed by the support of DBT and subsequent mariculture in cages would fulfill the domestic demand of marine finfish as the cheap and best source of animal protein. Snapper seed production on a consistent basis would give a fillip to diversification of mariculture in the country. He emphasized that the existing gap prevalent in the country between demand and supply can only be bridged by marine cage farming.

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