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Indian Council of Agricultural Research
केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute



(कृषि अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा विभाग, केन्द्र कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
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CMFRI Platinum Jubilee - Celebrating 70 years of Excellence in Research

Dr A Gopalakrishnan
Director, ICAR-CMFRI

27.05.2021

Dear Colleague,

It is with great pleasure and honour, I wish to address you once again after joining as Director, ICAR-CMFRI for a second term. I am grateful to the ICAR for the opportunity given to me to lead the institute for yet another stint. Needless to say, this would not have been possible if not for the excellent support given by each one of you, including the Heads of Divisions, Scientists-in-Charge, scientists, technical staff, research scholars, CAO, CFACo, all administrative, audit & accounts and supporting staff of the headquarters, 11 research centres, 15 field centres and 2 KVKs. I would also like to place on record the guidance, support and co-operation extended to me by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Hon'ble Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR; Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG (Fisheries Science), ICAR; the scientists and staff of Fisheries SMD of ICAR and my colleagues at all other fisheries research institutes.

With your support and hard work, CMFRI had made notable strides in the field of Marine Fisheries & Mariculture in the recent past. These include the policy advocacy extended by the institute to the maritime states in the form of Marine Fisheries Policy documents; the lead role played in developing the National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017 and National Fisheries Policy, 2020; minimum legal size (MLS) recommendations; estimation of marine fisheries potential; National Mariculture Policy; breakthroughs in seed production and hatchery techniques of several species of marine finfishes and ornamental fishes; mass production of copepods; development and standardization of commercial cage farming techniques; IMTA; establishment of national brood bank facilities; development and commercialization of several nutraceuticals and diagnostic kits; climate change and environmental research; achievements in NICRA; description of several marine species new to science; high impact factor publications; ample number of externally funded projects and consultancies including the prestigious Dr EG Silas Centre of Excellence and Innovation on Fish Nutrigenomics & Microbiome; several awards, patents and fellowships; indicators of efficient office administration and accounting and so on. The pinnacle of this stream of recognition was indeed winning the coveted *Sardar Vallabhai Patel Outstanding Institution Award, 2020* for the period 2014 - 2019. Further, in both marine fisheries and mariculture, CMFRI has been able to develop excellent rapport with fishers and other stakeholders, as evidenced by our involvement in myriad activities of scientific and policy relevance in the sector.

Success and recognition however comes with even more responsibilities, and leaves no scope for complacency. In the coming years, we aim to intensify our efforts in exploitation of deep-sea resources including non-conventional resources, such as deep-sea mesopelagic fish that are yet to be tapped fully. To realize the full potential of marine fisheries, CMFRI's research focus will also be directed towards bringing out National Marine Fish Stock Assessment documents at regular intervals; adoption of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM); co-management in marine fisheries;

optimal harnessing of fisheries wealth of Island ecosystems; integrating genetic principles in stock assessment of prioritized marine fish species; short-term and long-term forecasts on fisheries resources considering weather parameters; and conservation of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs). In the field of mariculture, CMFRI would focus on increasing mariculture production through productivity enhancements; strengthening off-shore large cage culture with automation, aligning with the national mission, more attention on seaweed mariculture; genomic selection of prioritized finfishes such as Indian pompano and native agar yielding seaweeds, and large scale culture of marine microalgae as source of vegetarian PUFA. Emphasis will also be given on transferring CMFRI seed production technology to hatcheries/nurseries in public/private sector for large-scale production of quality marine fish seed to promote mariculture. The science for *in-vitro* fish flesh production system (IFPS) (Factory fish meat) with substantially lower overall environmental impacts than those of conventionally produced fish meat would also be attempted in a collaborative mode.

By far, it is the team work, camaraderie and our sense of belonging that paid off in all our endeavors. We should not forget that our inputs and advices as experts are essential to guide and support the fisherfolk struggling to combat the challenges from natural and human hazards. We need to give more stress on inter-disciplinary research, which is the key to excellence in future years. The Divisions and Centres of CMFRI should work in tandem to bring in solutions for the problems we face today. Emphasis needs to be given to get more externally funded projects and increase our footprint in the academic world. This will help us improve our infrastructure, capacity building and lead to better scientific outputs. Publications are the efficient means to disseminate our research findings to peers and society. I urge the scientists, technical staff and research scholars to improve your knowledge of the subject by reading, discussing, and publishing your findings in journals of high academic repute. Our administrative, accounts and support staff have risen to every occasion as indispensable part of team CMFRI. I solicit their continued support in taking our legacy forward. Average age of CMFRI staff is only 38 years and I sincerely request the young blood to shoulder more responsibilities to lead the institute to greater heights in the coming years.

We are in the midst of a pandemic and invariably going through trying times. It is the need of the hour to show our collective strength and solidarity even when forced to work from home. Despite all adversities, in the 75th year of establishment of our prestigious institute, I request your continued support, co-operation and well wishes in our journey ahead together.

With best regards,



A.Gopalakrishnan.

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