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Book Review

Indian Fisheries: A Progressive Outlook

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Title of the book : Indian Fisheries: A Progressive Outlook

Editors : K. K. Vijayan, P. Jayasankar and P. Vijayagopal

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Indian Fisheries: A Progressive Outlook, as the title goes is the renewed depiction of present scenario of Indian fisheries of both marine and fresh water

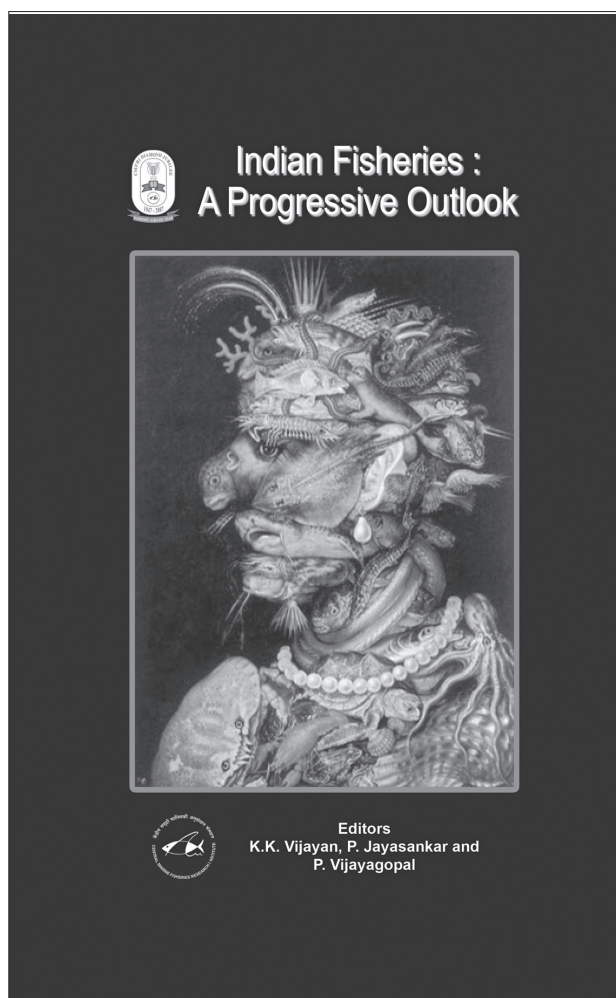
fishes with the topics on overall fisheries research, human resources, present status of fisheries, cost-effective value-added fishery products, captive breeding of marine fin fish, government policies on its regulation, awareness programme about natural calamities confronting the challenges for world's animal protein security, through its 12 invited articles.

The recent formation of NFDB as a cutting edge to strengthen and promote fisheries in India is the need of the hour with increased population to meet their nutritional requirements. The governments policies in regulating the outlets of fisheries sector

are clearly elaborated for their need as per the present global situation protecting the regional concerns.

Increasing concern for sustainable fisheries through fishing gears with turtle excluding device (TED) and by-batch reduction device (BRD) is emphasized. An account on evolution of HRD agencies on fisheries is given covering the period from 1945 to date involving universities, national institutions, *etc.* of both basic and applied fisheries. The effect of their linkages with overseas agencies like SEAFDEC, NACA, *etc.* is shown as a boon to fisheries education in India.

The need for fish processing for an array of value added products is very well described. It is also necessary to assess the impact of export value on the national revenue. The various steps involved in making various value added marine fishery products, their processes, specialized shrimp products, products of medical importance *etc.* are a few to be noted. Interestingly, aspects on reproductive physiology of fishes, which are the key issues of any captive breeding programme, are highlighted with bio-organic and biochemical background with respect to induced maturation and spawning. The role of fisheries research on fish production and its sustenance with the present changing environment and the increasing demand for fish are well discussed. Aspects on captive breeding and culture of preferred candidates, development of fishing gears for the targeted species and modern aquaculture technologies are also highlighted. Regularisation of marine biodiversity for ecological stability with revised international maritime policies, efforts of FAO for responsible fisheries and



world conventions for conservation of marine ecosystem are also emphasized.

The realization of increased importance of biotechnological tools with multidisciplinary approach for hatchery problems, health management, disease diagnostic kits, marine bioprospecting, nutritional enhancement, extremophiles, transgenic fishes *etc.* are extensively discussed. The benefit of nitrifying bacteria as a bioreactor in zero water exchange system in hatcheries of economically important shrimp candidates is accounted well with the note of its take off of this technology for commercialization. The impact of bottom sea trawling and the effect of fishing ban during monsoon along Kerala coast for regeneration of fishery

resources are well analyzed in the present day context. The awareness notes for prevention, mitigation and resilient activities for hazard and disaster management in navigational fleets are timely for the present day increased maritime activities and post-tsunami conditions.

Addressing the nutrition and livelihood security with respect to fish and fisheries to alleviate the malnutrition and under-nourished Indian population paves the way to the effective implementation of government policies. Aspects of the need of animal protein in tackling malnutrition, increasing aquaculture productivity and public awareness for community aquaculture are also highlighted.

Thus the book gives the overall picture of present day deliberations and implementation of programmes of Indian fisheries sector and it is highly useful for the policy makers, researchers, academicians and fishery exporters as well.