

# Dr. G. Syda Rao, Director, CMFRI retires

Dr. G. Syda Rao, Director, CMFRI retired from service on superannuation on 31.07.2013. Appointed in the first batch of Agricultural Research Service on 6.1.1977, Dr. G. Syda Rao, one of the renowned marine fisheries scientists in India assumed the charge as Director, CMFRI on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2008. Under his stewardship during 2008-'13, CMFRI reached pinnacle of glory in the world arena of marine fisheries. During his momentous tenure as Director, the research outputs of CMFRI have been able to integrate with all states, as timely interventions, advices on several issues and enabled the country to manage marine fisheries in a sustainable manner and the institute's research data regained the status of official figures of Govt. of India. During this period CMFRI filed 15 patents and commercialized two products viz. Cadalmin™ Green Mussel extract and Cadalmin™ Green Algal extract. Pioneering the innovative cage mariculture in India and simultaneously achieving breakthrough in breeding of Cobia, Silver Pompano, Greasy Grouper, Pearlsnapper and Red Snapper, he has demonstrated technologically viable and economically feasible cage-culture, which will revolutionize the marine fish production. Signs of large scale adoption of this technology are already visible. Successful pop-up satellite tagging of Yellowfin Tuna, land based culturing of Pearl Oyster in marine body, feed for Silver Pompano and ornamental fish are other important scientific achievements attributable to his leadership. Conceptualization and initiation of chlorophyll based remote sensing assisted Indian Fisheries Forecasting

System project is another milestone achievement. CMFRI witnessed an accelerated infrastructure development during 2008-'13 with the remarkable achievement in construction of lab cum office building at RCs of Mandapam, Mangalore, Vizhinjam, Karwar, Tuticorin, extension of laboratory building at Visakhapatnam, face lift to Veraval RC's Office building, residential quarters at Headquarters, laboratory building for Kovalam, Chennai RC, permanent space for Puri Field Centre, additional floor at H/q's, International trainees hostel at Mandapam, VPN connectivity linking all RCs, furnishing all the new lab cum office at the above RCs, obtaining permanent lab cum office space for Mumbai RC at the entire second floor of CIFE old campus, 27 residential quarters in Central Government residential complex at Malwan, Mumbai, Establishment of RAS facility, Environmental chamber and mariculture complex at Mandapam RC. After a long hiatus two new fishery research vessels have been added to the fleet, viz. FV Silver Pompano which got commissioned recently and the other due in next quarter. The visibility of CMFRI output and outcome reached global level through e-prints @CMFRI. Institute publication "Indian Journal of Fisheries" has gone online and captured International impact factor 0.195 and NAAS rating of 6.2.

The international collaboration Indo-Australia strategic partnership on climate change, NACA - CMFRI seminar on emerging issues in Asian Aquaculture, International Belmont Forum and G8 Research Councils International Opportunities



Fund, International Symposium on status of good practices and lessons learnt in Aquaculture in SAARC region and hosting 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Fisheries Forum are significant events during his glittering reign.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Ernakulam attained unprecedented heights and visibility during his tenure. Institute was able to bag Indira Gandhi Raj Bhasha Puraskar.

Under TSP he led the Institute in empowering the Sidi tribal community of Gujarat by helping them to thrash out a permanent livelihood option in cage based mariculture.

Dr. G. Syda Rao's outstanding contribution lies on the creation of an ambience of happiness, security and feel good factor among the staff of this Institute which paved way for CMFRI to scale new peaks in scientific output.

**We salute our indomitable leader who has left an indelible mark in the annals of CMFRI.**