

**Hon'ble Union Minister, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India visit at ICAR-CIFE, Rohtak Centre**

Sri Radha Mohan Singh Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India, visited the Rohtak centre of ICAR-CIFE and held a meeting with the officials and also with the farmers of the region on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG, Fisheries, ICAR, New Delhi, and Dr. Gopal Krishna, Director and Vice Chancellor, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai were present in the meeting. It was appraised to the dignitaries that the centre was established thirty years back with the focus on developing technologies and promoting inland saline aquaculture & shrimp farming in salt affected areas. Inland saline areas are mostly located in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. During last three years, there has been a record increase in shrimp production from these areas. Farmers, mainly from Haryana and Punjab are benefited by this technology. Shrimp culture, which was carried out only in 11 acres in 2014 has spread to an area of 900 acres by 2017, and this resulted substantial increase in the income of the farmers. It was also informed to the dignitaries that with the financial support of the World Bank Project, the Centre will be developing new technologies and refining the existing technologies in inland saline aquaculture.

Hon'ble Minister visited the centre, farm and wet lab facilities' and provided valuable guidance on various issues related to the farmers, farmers' welfare and how technologies related to the saline aquaculture can make a difference. He also interacted with the staff of the centre, students and farmers to get first hand information about various issues faced by them.



