

**Inaugural Function of Pilot Plant  
&  
Launch Workshop of TSP Projects at Nandurbar**

An inauguration programme for opening of a new pilot plant for value-added fish products preparation, along with launch of two projects aiming at the development of tribal fishermen was organized on 16.09.2021 at Nav Jeevan Tribal Fisherman Co-Operative Society, Khairwe, Navapur, Nandurbar. Honourable Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Nandurbar, Dr Vijay Kumar Gavitji was the Chief Guest of the programme. Dr. Gopal Krishna, Director and Vice-Chancellor, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai presided over the function and Mr Kiran Padvi, Asst. Commissioner of Fisheries, Nandurbar was the Guest of Honour. Dr. B. B. Nayak, Head, Fisheries Resources Harvest and Post-Harvest Management Division welcomed all the guests and briefed everyone about the inauguration program. Dr. A. K. Balange, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai, who is also the Principal Investigator of the project, delivered a keynote address on “Implementation of improved technological interventions in fish farming and processing in Nandurbar District”. The Guest of Honor, Mr Kiran Padvi, addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance and usefulness of the pilot plant for doubling the income of the tribal community. He also highlighted the importance of disease management and about the good practices in fish farming. Director and Vice-Chancellor, ICAR CIFE, Dr. Gopal Krishna, in his presidential address highlighted the activities of ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai in the tribal areas of different parts of the country. He also mentioned that the main objective of the Institute in running these skill development activities is to develop entrepreneurship and to improve the socio-economic status of the tribal community. He mentioned that the facility will be beneficial to the tribal community for carrying out value-addition of fish products and for improving their livelihood. He assured that ICAR-CIFE will impart necessary hands-on training and shall help in skill development of the tribal communities. He thanked the Fisheries Department of Maharashtra for supporting the activities of ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai.

The Chief Guest of the programme, Dr. Vijay Kumar Gavitji, mentioned in his inaugural speech that these kinds of activities are being implemented for the first time in the tribal area of Nandurbar. He also emphasized that tribal fish farmers are ignorant about fish diseases and suffer economic losses due to stagnant growth and mortality of fish. He thanked the Director & Vice-Chancellor of ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai for providing the pilot plant for value-added fish products preparation and for implementing the project on “Skill and

knowledge development for fish health management in freshwater culture system from selected tribal regions of Maharashtra”.

The invited dignitaries also launched the following two projects of ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai for a three-year period in the tribal area of Nandurbar district:

1. Development of a Pilot scale plant for value-added fish products (PI – Dr. A. K. Balange)
2. “Skill and knowledge development for fish health management in freshwater culture system from selected tribal regions of Maharashtra”. (PI – Dr. Gayatri Tripathi)

Two brochures regarding the above two projects and a training manual on “Value-added fish products preparation from freshwater fish” were also released by the dignitaries during the programme.

A vote of thanks was given by Dr Gayatri Tripathi, Principal Scientist, AEHM division, ICAR-CIFE, in which she thanked all the dignitaries and the farmers.