

Report on
SERB Sponsored Training Programme (Karyashala) on
‘Advances in Molecular Taxonomy and Phylogenetics’

The Fish Genetics and Biotechnology Division, ICAR-CIFE, organized the DST-SERB Sponsored Training Programme (Karyashala) on "Advances in Molecular Taxonomy and Phylogenetics" from 30th Jan to 8th Feb 2023, under the Accelerate Vigyan scheme. The training was directed by Dr. Aparna Chaudhari, Principal Scientist & Former HoD, and coordinated by Dr. A. Pavan Kumar, Sr. Scientist and Dr. Kiran Rasal, Scientist FGB division. A total of twenty participants (13 girls and seven boys) pursuing doctoral and Master's degrees from several colleges across India (including in-service candidates from Zoological Survey of India) participated in this program. The Chief Guest of the inaugural function Dr. K. K. Lal, Director, ICAR-CIBA, Chennai, who has worked extensively in the area of germplasm conservation stressed the importance of molecular tools and morphological characters in identifying new fish species. He emphasized the tectonic plate movements in shaping the current fish biodiversity in India. Dr. Ravishankar, C.N., Director & Vice-Chancellor, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai highlighted the importance of molecular tools for detecting mislabelling of processed seafood products.

The training programme was oriented towards practical exposure with 13 theory classes and 21 practical sessions. The participants carried out DNA isolation, PCR, Primer designing and data analysis using advanced computational tools. The pre-and post-training evaluation of the trainees showed 60-70% improvement in their knowledge of the topics covered. In their feedback trainees expressed complete satisfaction with the course and rated it 'Excellent'. During the Valedictory Program, Dr. N. P. Sahu, Joint Director, ICAR-CIFE, interacted with every participant and understood how they intend using the knowledge gained from the training. He asked the participants to maintain their link with CIFE and interact with the resource persons for future clarifications and collaborations. He congratulated the Course Director and Coordinators for successful completion of the training.

