

**Press Note**  
**Round Table Conference on**  
**“Aquapreneurship: Discussing the Future of Fishery: Startups and Policy Framework in India.”**  
**18<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Venue: ICAR- Central Institute of Fisheries Educations, New Campus, Panch Marg, Versova**

The Agribusiness Incubation Centre (ABIC) of ICAR- Central Institute of Fisheries Education and the Savishkar India, an NGO under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, India and Anantam Ecosystems organized a round table conference on the topic “Aquapreneurship: Discussing the Future of Fishery Startups and Policy Framework in India.” on 18th of March 2024. 54 attendees were present in the conference representing Startups in Aquaculture and fisheries, Policy Makers, Fishermen organizations, Academicians, PhD students and a few undergraduates. Dr. Ravishankar, Director & Vice Chancellor of ICAR-CIFE, highlighted the importance of infrastructural development to harness the potential of fisheries and aquaculture in pharmaceutical, healthcare, biotechnology and allied areas. Mr. Chintan Oza, founder of Anantam Ecosystems and India Region Lead for IEEE Entrepreneurship presented an overview of Indian Fishery Industry with a reference to government strategies and technical advancements for a better future. Shri. Atul Patane, IAS, Secretary-in-Charge and Commissioner of Fisheries, Maharashtra elaborated on the emerging issues in the fisheries sector including the need for sustainable practices, government drone monitoring, AI-assisted artificial fish breeding, decorative fish farming and valued added products signifying the waste to wealth approach such as fish leather developed by ICAR-CIFE. The CEO and Founder of Aqua Doctor Solutions, Mr Debtanu Barman, spoke about his experience in technological innovations in fisheries through student research. Mr Jaideep Patil, National President of FISHFED India, discussed social entrepreneurship, community development, and Fish Farmers Producers Organizations (FFPOs) under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Shri. Praful Talera, West Region Committee-Confederation of Indian Industry Expert in Blue Economy imparted a deeper insight in to the cultural advancement and prospects of the fishermen community. The topic “Marital Spatial Planning (MSP)” was introduced by Dr(Cdr) Arnab Das, Founder & Director Maritime Research Center (MRC), who highlighted the necessity of domain-specific research. Shri. Ashish Chauhan, Policy Expert encouraged the participants to embrace the vast marine boundaries of India, highlighting the endless opportunities available in the realm of fisheries startups. An open session followed the invited talks where the experts and the participants including the students shared their thoughts, ideas and information. Dr. Kranti Sagar More, National Convener, Savishkar India proposed a vote of thanks to the participants and ICAR-CIFE for the support for organizing the conference.

