



XVI Convocation of ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai

ICAR-CIFE's sixteenth Convocation was held on 20 March, 2023 at the New Campus, Panch Marg Versova, Andheri West, Mumbai. A total of 50 Ph.D. and 94 M.F.Sc degrees were awarded.

Chief Guest of the Convocation was Dr. Himanshu Pathak, FNA, FNASc, FNAAS, FAvH, FAScT, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR. Other dignitaries included the Deputy Director General (Fy) ICAR, Dr. Joy Krushna Jena and the former Directors and Vice Chancellors of the Institute.

The Convocation began with a majestic and grand academic procession followed by the Invocation song sung by the faculty and staff of the Institute. Along with the certificate distribution, invigorating medals and awards were also bestowed on the University topper, divisional and discipline toppers for their outstanding performances.

The awards included Dr. C.V. Kulkarni gold medal for the overall topper of the batch, Dr. Hiralal Chaudhari gold medal for discipline toppers (11 nos.), Dr. M.A. Upare gold medal for topper of the Fisheries Economics Discipline, Dr. B.N. Sharma gold medal for topper of Fisheries Extension Discipline, Prof. Ravindranath Krothapalli gold medal for topper of AEHM division, Madhavprasad S. Jahagirdar gold medal for Topper of Fish Genetics and Biotechnology Division.

The Director/Vice Chancellor, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai Dr. Ravishankar C. N. welcomed the dignitaries and mentioned the academic and research achievements of the institute in his report. Director acknowledged the achievements related to the genetic improvement of fish, species diversification, vaccines for aquatic animal pathogens, seafood safety and



quality testing, larval feed, use of non-conventional feed ingredients, and nutraceuticals; monitoring and remediation of coastal pollution; waste utilization; development of value-added fish products; a mobile app; and a documentary film. He touched upon the salient achievements in terms of external funded projects, publications and collaborations. He also appreciated the

achievements of ICAR-CIFE alumni having reached greater heights both in India and abroad as scientists, entrepreneurs, and policymakers.

Dr. Himanshu Pathak addressed the gathering and congratulated the degree awardees. He mentioned, “fisheries provide employment to millions and in future, this sector will play a very important role in meeting the nutritional requirements of the world's growing population. Therefore, considering the importance of this sector, the Government of India has formed a separate Ministry of Fisheries. The Ministry has launched the *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana* (PMMSY) in 2019-20, which aims to increase fish production through the adoption of innovations and modern technology, improve the safety and quality of fish, develop post-harvest infrastructure, and modernize the fish value chain.” Dr. Pathak also appreciated the significant contribution ICAR-CIFE made in developing energy-efficient and environmentally friendly technologies for inland saline aquaculture.



Dr. Pathak, in his speech, congratulated all the degree recipients, their parents, teachers, and the Vice Chancellor of the institute for their tiring efforts and sacrifices they have made to groom the students. He categorically emphasized that today education has emerged as the most important factor of development and therefore it becomes the responsibility of the educated person to distribute the knowledge to others to further increase the growth of the knowledge of the community as whole. He stressed that the world needs more food by 2050. Therefore, fisheries research and education will be critical. He also underlined the need for innovative research and extension programs to increase the production and consumption of aquatic food by expanding fish farming, increasing productivity, improving marketing, and reducing post-harvest losses.

He urged the institute to promote aspiring entrepreneurs in the fishing sector. Therefore, he emphasized that the university may embark on a focused entrepreneurship program with the assistance of developmental agencies and financial institutions that would not only sponsor the program but also sustain the trained entrepreneurs through financial support and handholding.



Dr. Hiralal Chaudhuri Award (Gold Medal)



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