

ICAR-CIFRI organized Stake Holders' Meeting at Mangalam Dam, Kerala

A stake holders meeting was organized by Kochi Centre of ICAR-CIFRI at Mangalam Dam, Palakkad district of Kerala on 23 August, 2017. The meeting was organized with the following objectives:

- An orientation on the possible projects and identification of funding agencies that can help the Fisherman Co-operative Society for reservoir fisheries development in the Mangalam Dam.
- An interaction with fishers to have an assessment of their problems.
- A possible technical intervention by ICAR-CIFRI in scientific management of fisheries activities in the reservoir.
- The issues related to PWD may be sorted out at administrative level.

Dr. Rani Palaniswamy, Officer-in-Charge, Kochi Research Center of ICAR-CIFRI, welcomed the gathering in the stake holders' meeting.

Dr. U.K. Sarkar, Head, Reservoir and Wetland Fisheries Division, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore addressed the participants and stressed on the following points:

- Taking up Mangalam dam as a model dam of Kerala reservoir fisheries
- Pen culture may be taken up for rearing fingerlings in the reservoir
- Value addition of fish for better price of the produce
- Identification of the native fish fauna and its nutrient profiling would be initiated.
- Different price tag of different fish species based on their nutrient status and market demand
- Revision of the existing price list of fishes caught from the reservoir based on market inflation and demand of fish.

The fishers were addressed by Smt. Thankam Theresa Paul, Scientist, followed by interaction with the fishers. The following problems and development plans were highlighted by the fishers in the Stakeholders' meeting:

- Problem of water overflow from the reservoir causing escape of stocked fishes and huge loss to fishers

- An option for a permanent enclosure type construction in the reservoir for raising fingerlings to avoid hassles due to water level fluctuations
- Disappearance of indigenous fish species like *Channa* sp., *Heteropneustes* sp., *Mastacembalus* sp. from the reservoir
- Predation problems and damages of nets caused by otters and water birds
- Sustainability issues of fish harvesting from the reservoir
- Insufficient fund for coracle repairing and net purchase

Dr. U.K. Sarkar, Head, Reservoir & Wetland Fisheries Division, ICAR-CIFRI, Dr. Rani Palaniswamy, Officer-in-Charge, Kochi Centre of CIFRI, Dr. Deepa Sudheesan and Dr. T.T. Paul, scientists of the Kochi Centre, Shri Benny Williams, Assistant Director of Fisheries, Palakkad, Smt. Indulekha, Sub-Inspector of Fisheries, Mangalam Dam, Shri. P.V. Chandran, President and Members of Mangalam Dam Fisherman Co-operative Society attended the meeting.

The recommendations by the representatives of the State Fisheries Department were:

- Cage culture initiation in the reservoir
- Identification of suitable projects under fisheries umbrella for women empowerment
- Initiation of agriculture-aquaculture integrated projects in the reservoir area

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Smt. Indulekha, Sub-Inspector of Fisheries, Mangalam Dam, Kerala.

