

SPOT NEWS

During the visit to Lakshadweep by the Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu on 18 March, 2023, she appreciated the efforts of ICAR National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) in the livelihood development of island women.

During her address, the President added that this initiative is a unique venture in which science and societal development are taken up hand in hand with local bioresources.

Following her address, there was an interactive session (19 March) with the women beneficiaries attached with the community aquaculture units for marine ornamentals and the president was appraised of the mode of operation of the community aquaculture units and their role in enhancing the income of the women islanders.

The beneficiaries attached with the NBFGR's community aquaculture units, viz., Ms. Haslamathbi, T., Mrs. Sabeena Beegum, U., Mrs. Nisa Soorath, S. M., Mrs. Nafeesath, M. P., Mrs. Amminabi, K. T. P., attended the interaction with the President and requested to expand the activities, so that they can get more income.

Agermplasm resource centre for marine ornamentals was established at Agatti, Lakshadweep by the institute, and they have discovered four new marine ornamental shrimps and developed captive propagation technology.

Following this, the institute has given training to the self-help group clusters who have adopted simplified technology and are successfully running the community aquaculture units and rearing ornamental shrimps and fishes.



Fig. 1. Beneficiaries with President of India

This has resulted in creation of sustainable livelihood among the local population with subsistence income. The success of the developed model by the institute, leads to the possibility of expanding the same to other islands of Lakshadweep for livelihood development in the coming days, with the funding support of CMLRE, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India.



Fig. 2. Dr. U. K. Sarkar, Director, NBFGR along with Dr. T.T. Ajith Kumar, Scientist In-Charge, The Peninsular and Marine Fish Genetic Resources (PMFGR), Cochin is distributing seeds and culture devices to beneficiaries.



Fig. 3. Seeds of *Thor hainanensis*.