

Launching of National Network project on “Molecular screening, cell culture based isolation and characterization of finfish and shellfish viruses and Establishment of National Repository”

Department of Biotechnology, Government of India has launched a National Network project on “**Molecular screening, cell culture based isolation and characterization of finfish and shellfish viruses and Establishment of National Repository**” having five participating Institutions such National Centre for Aquatic Animal Health, Cochin University of Science and Technology, C Abdul Hakeem College, Tamilnadu, ICAR – Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, ICAR - Central Institute of Fresh Water Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar, Faculty of Fisheries, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology of Kashmir, Rangil.

Approved objectives of the project are:

1. Standardization/development of PCR conditions for the detection of all known finfish and shellfish associated viruses.
2. PCR/RT-PCR based screening for the viruses from Orissa and West Bengal.
3. Isolation of viruses on cell lines.
4. Characterization of the isolated viruses.
5. Establishment of Repository for the finfish and shellfish viruses.

There is every possibility that after its completion the Nation will have the capability to address the outbreak of viral diseases in finfish and shell fish culture systems, in their diagnosis and containment in support of aquaculture.

The network project is being implemented under the overall coordination by Prof. I. S. Bright Singh, and the institutes with the involvement of Dr. T.P. Sajeevan (CUSAT), Dr. A. S. Sahul Hameed (C.A. Abdul Hakeem College) Dr. K.V. Rajendran (CIFE), Dr. P.K. Sahoo (CIFA) and Dr. Feroz A. Shah (SKUAST-Kashmir) as Principal Investigators. The project is for a period of three years with effect from 11-7-2017 at a project cost of Rs. 4.88932 Crores.

The progress of the said project was reviewed in a Coordination Committee meeting conducted on 22nd June, 2018 at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology of Kashmir and it is well progressing.