

**Press Release**

**“State Leads the Country in Innovative Schemes in Fisheries Sector”**

A webinar meeting on “The Best Practices Compendium in Fisheries Sector and comparison with Practices / Schemes / Policies implemented by State” was held under the Chairmanship of **Thiru.C.Ponnaiyan, Hon’ble Vice Chairman, State Development Policy Council** (erstwhile State Planning Commission), Tamil Nadu on 29.12.2020 in State Development Policy Council, Chennai – 5. Thiru. Anil Meshram, I.A.S., Member Secretary, SDP Council, senior officials from stakeholder departments and panel experts have participated in the workshop.

Based on the Best Practices Compendium released by NITI Aayog in September 2020, State Development Policy Council has organized this webinar meeting to facilitate the knowledge sharing and innovative practices which have resulted in positive changes in Fisheries Sector.

Honorable Vice Chairman emphasized in his opening remarks that fish is an important source of food for people and it is the most important source of high-quality protein and omega-3 fatty acids. He insisted that Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are vital for reducing poverty as well as for improving the health. Tamil Nadu ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in India in Fish production through implementation of innovative, need based, developmental and welfare schemes to ensure that producers get better value for their catches and consumers get high quality fish.

Director of Research, Tamil Nadu Dr.J. Jayalalitha Fisheries University, has explained the global best technology and innovations

namely, Efficient Cold Chain Management to maintain fresh seafood, Re-circulatory Aquaculture System in Netherlands, Tilapia Cage Farming in Vietnam, Artificial Reefs and Case studies on mobilizing fisheries Self Help Group in Kerala and Fisheries Farmer Producer Organization in Andhra Pradesh in his powerpoint presentation.

The Director, Fisheries Department presented the details of schemes and best practices implemented by Government of Tamil Nadu. It is highlighted in the presentation that the State is promoting marketing of fish and fishery products by providing shore infrastructure facilities on par with international standards and Modern fish retails are being established for hygienic handling of fish and supply good quality fish. It is stated that Tamil Nadu is a water starved State and to increase the fish production, Re-circulatory Aquaculture System is encouraged by providing subsidy assistance. To provide easy access to the consumers through e-marketing and to promote fish eating habit, State operates electronic applications like 'Dial-A-Fish' and 'Meengal'. As a result of slew of measures taken by the Government, Tamil Nadu continuously shows holistic development in fisheries sector.

Hon'ble Vice Chairman, in his concluding remarks, quoted that Advanced infrastructure facilities for fish breeding, livefood production and a laboratory with the state-of-art facility are being established through the projects of Aquatic Rainbow Technology Park and E-Fish health surveillance and monitoring network to improve fisheries production funded under Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives. He also recommended that production of Basa Fish, which is used both for food and ornamental fish, with Women Self Help Group participation will enable the socio-economic development of women. Promoting Aquatic Rainbow Technology Park in other part of the State to give training in remunerative ornamental fish production, will definitely take our State to

the first place both in production and export. He suggested that Tamil Nadu Agriculture University and Tamil Nadu Dr.J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University may jointly develop a co-curriculum which focuses on increase in fish production by using hi-tech and innovative technologies to promote entrepreneurship and employment. He emphasized that the cost effective but highly remunerative practices and wisdom available in the State may be studied and scaled up by giving awareness for increasing the production and income to fishermen. Hon'ble Vice Chairman also requested that the best practices of the State may be shared by Fisheries Department to NITI Aayog to popularize the State's performance.

Member Secretary

**Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.**