

# ICAR WEBSITE - 18-03-2025

## AquaBiz 2.0: Empowering Growth in India's Fisheries Sector

*18th March 2025, Kochi*

To drive transformative growth in India's fisheries sector, the Zonal Technology Management-Agribusiness Incubation Centre (ZTM-ABI) of ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) organized the AquaBiz 2.0 entrepreneurship meet at Hotel Avenue Centre, Kochi. The event was held in collaboration with AgrInnovate India, the IP&TM Unit of ICAR, and the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). AquaBiz 2.0 aimed to showcase the latest technologies from ICAR's fisheries research institutes and foster collaboration among entrepreneurs, researchers, and policymakers.

The Chief Guest, Dr Bijay Kumar Behera, Chief Executive, NFDB, highlighted the various funding structures under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), supporting entrepreneurship in aquaculture and fisheries.

Dr Tarun Shridhar, Former Secretary, MoFAHD, emphasized India's strengths in fisheries research, particularly in value addition. Shri Alex Ninan, Vice President of SEAI, addressed the challenges in the seafood industry, including overfishing and climate change.



Dr George Ninan, Director, ICAR-CIFT, also graced the occasion.

Expert talks covered topics such as government support for entrepreneurship, financial schemes from NABARD, and the role of the Kerala Startup Mission.

Additionally, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between ICAR-CIFT and industry partners, reinforcing collaboration in fostering innovation.

A major highlight was the launch of a new product developed by ICAR-CIFT in partnership with Smt. Rajani Rajan from Spicon Bio, promoting women-led entrepreneurship in fisheries.

With over 200 participants, AquaBiz 2.0 has paved the way for new opportunities and partnerships, reinforcing India's leadership in global aquaculture and fisheries technology.