

# ICAR website - 28-11-2025

## ICAR-CIFT and SBI Forge Landmark Partnership to Boost Fisheries Startups Nationwide

28 November 2025, Kochi

ICAR–Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the State Bank of India (SBI), on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025, marking a significant milestone in empowering fisheries-based startups and technology adopters across India.

The MoA was formally signed and exchanged in the presence of senior officials from both institutions, including Dr. George Ninan, Director, ICAR-CIFT, and Shri Santosh Kumar, Deputy General Manager (ABU & GSS), SBI.

This strategic collaboration aims to bridge the gap between cutting-edge research innovations developed by ICAR fisheries institutes and the financial support needed to commercialize them.



ICAR-CIFT, through its Zonal Technology Management–Agribusiness Incubation (ZTM-ABI) Centre, will serve as the central coordinator, identifying eligible entrepreneurs, conducting technical pre-screening, and orienting SBI officials on fisheries technologies and their commercial potential. The ZTM-ABI Centre will be the national-level nodal platform for consolidating fisheries technologies from all ICAR fisheries institutes, enabling SBI to access a unified repository of validated, market-ready innovations for streamlined financial support.

Under the agreement, SBI will extend preferential financial assistance, such as working capital, term loans, and startup financing, to entrepreneurs and incubatees registered at ZTM-ABI Centre. The financial support will be based on project viability, business potential, and adherence to SBI's lending norms.

*(Source: ICAR–Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi)*