

India's First NABL Accredited Aquaculture Genetics Laboratory

The Central Aquaculture Genetics Laboratory of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), the R & D arm of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India becomes the First Aquaculture Genetics Laboratory of the country accredited by NABL (National Accreditation Board For Testing & Calibration Laboratories) as per ISO/IEC 17025: 2005

The Central Aquaculture Genetics Laboratory (CAGL) of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) has received accreditation (in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005) from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) during June 2015. The CAGL thus gets the distinction of being the first Aquaculture Laboratory in the country to obtain NABL recognition which reassured the quality research work going on at the CAGL.

Located at the RGCA headquarters at Sirkazhi in Tamil Nadu, CAGL is extremely well equipped for contemporary research on molecular & cellular biology and genetics, The lab is supplemented by equipments such as Genetic analysers, thermal cyclers etc. CAGL plays a key role in selective breeding programmes of shrimp, scampi and tilapia presently being implemented at RGCA. The lab supports to resolve culture related issues of these organisms through implementation of effective breeding strategies and thus helps in enhancing their production and survival rates. Currently the lab is actively involved in population genetics study for targeted species to determine the founder population for selective breeding programmes. CAGL has published population genetics research work in black tiger shrimp of India in reputed International journal 'GENE'. As the accuracy of species identification is important for any culture activity the lab is conducting research on molecular identification of species with multiple molecular markers. The CAGL has identified the mangrove mud crab species using multiple molecular markers and reported for the first time from India that only two mud crab species of genus *Scylla*

exist in our coastal waters. The lab has many International publications and had submitted more than 60 unique sequence at NCBI GenBank.



Photo: Gel documentation at CAGL



Photo: DNA sequencing at CAGL