



**RGCA ORGANIZES THE THIRD EDITION OF THE
DR. E.G. SILAS ANNUAL ENDOWMENT LECTURE
ON
GENETICS AND SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE
GSA-2015 AT CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU**



Ms. Leena Nair IAS, Chairman, MPEDA and President, RGCA inaugurating the 3rd Dr. E.G. Silas Annual Endowment Lecture by lighting the Ceremonial Lamp

RGCA organized a one-day International seminar on *Genetics and Sustainable Aquaculture* (GSA-2015) as part of the 3rd Dr. E.G. Silas Annual Endowment Lecture on 10th August 2015 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

This seminar was the first of its kind by RGCA and designed to create awareness among the stakeholders of the aquaculture industry as well as the supporting scientific community to understand the crucial role of genetics and selective breeding in aquaculture systems by bringing in top aquaculture geneticists from across the globe to speak on these issues at the seminar.

The event was inaugurated by Ms. Leena Nair IAS, President, RGCA and Chairman, MPEDA by lighting the traditional lamp. In her inaugural address, President RGCA lauded the efforts of RGCA-MPEDA in addressing the current National and International needs of the aqua farmers and fisheries sector in the country through its applied research and services. President RGCA also highlighted the benefits acquired through genetic improvement, importance of selective breeding and mentioned the commendable research

work done by RGCA in the field of aquaculture genetics with reference to traceability and sustainability for the Indian aquaculture industry.

The Guest of honour at the event, Dr. E.G. Silas, former Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, former Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University and the present Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee of RGCA delivered a visionary Key Note address on the importance and opportunities of the wide spectrum of aquaculture genetics and biotechnology that could sustain our aquaculture industry in the years to come.

The felicitation addresses were delivered by the Chief Executive Officer of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) Shri. K.N. Kumar, IAS; Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Dr. S. Vijayakumar, IAS; Member Secretary of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) of India, Dr. P. Ravichandran; the Director of the National Bureau of Fish Genetics Resources (ICAR), Dr. J.K. Jena; the Director of the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR), Dr. P. Jayasankar and the Director of the Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (ICAR), Dr. K.K. Vijayan. All the distinguished speakers appreciated the efforts done by RGCA & MPEDA for Indian Aquaculture and expressed their desire to work together towards the sustainable aquaculture.



Ms. Leena Nair IAS, Chairman, MPEDA and President, RGCA delivering the Inaugural address

The Inaugural programme concluded with President, RGCA releasing the Inaugural Issue of RGCA quarterly Newsletter and presented the first copy to the present Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee of RGCA, Dr. E.G. Silas. The august gathering also witnessed the historical moment of Indian aquaculture when President of RGCA handed over the first batch of the genetically improved RGCA - GIFT Tilapia Broodstock to the Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Tamil Nadu, Dr. S. Vijayakumar IAS, for the first Satellite Breeding Centre of the country established at Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu. The effort would help

in disseminating and propagating tilapia aquaculture in the country that would help in ensuring food security through sustainable aquaculture.



Release of the inaugural issue of RGCA Quarterly Newsletter during Inaugural session of GSA-2015



Ms. Leena Nair IAS, Chairman, MPEDA and President, RGCA handed over the GIFT Broodstock to the Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Tamil Nadu, Dr. S. Vijayakumar IAS, for their Satellite Breeding Centre at Krishnagiri Dist

It was a most unique occasion where the heads of three ICAR institutes were together with RGCA-MPEDA discussing about working together for the benefit of the Aquaculture Industry in the country.

The technical sessions of the GSA-2015 were unique and the first of its kind in India where all the speakers were renowned aquaculture geneticists and selective breeding experts. The session started with the 3rd Dr. E.G. Silas Endowment Lecture by Dr. Roger W. Doyle, President, Gene Computation Limited, Canada. In his lecture on *“The relationship between management, inbreeding, and susceptibility to disease and environmental stress in aquaculture”*, the chief speaker Dr. Doyle enlightened the audience about the adverse effect of inbreeding, importance of knowledge sharing and justification of national level networking for sustainable aquaculture.

The technical sessions also had presentations from scientists from Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University (OI), Hawaii, USA. Dr. Shaun Moss, Executive Director, OI, presented the paper entitled *“Observations from an optimist: The future of shrimp farming and making the right decisions”* and Dr. Dustin Moss, Director, Shrimp Research Program, OI delivered the lecture on *“The role of genetic improvement programs in shrimp aquaculture”*. Dr. Curtis E. Lind, Scientist, Aquaculture & Genetics Improvement, WorldFish, Penang, Malaysia presented the paper on *“Genetic diversity and effective population size in aquaculture, with a case study on the GIFT breeding program in India”*. The final session of the event was one of a kind where all the speakers took several questions from the delegates and try to give comprehensive and collective suggestions for each query. The question-answer session was highly educative, interactive and lively.

GSA-2015 was a reverberating success with a substantial participation from across the country includes aqua farmers, hatchery operators, exporters, aquaculture professionals, Govt officials, entrepreneurs, scientists from National Institutes, University Professors and research scholars. A total of about 285 delegates attended the event from 11 states of the country including the participants from Abu Dhabi and USA, clearly showing the importance of genetics in sustainable aquaculture.



Participants listening to the lecture during the seminar-GSA-2015