



Indian Chamber of Commerce

Press Release

Bengal Fish Fest 2018
5th-7th January 2017, Nalban Food Park, Sector V,
Salt Lake, Kolkata

Kolkata, 6th January, 2018: “The fisheries sector can be categorized as the sunrise sector, given its resurgence and tremendous growth potential. The Fisheries Department of the State is working closely in accordance with the State Government to enhance production, processing and exports”: Mr Chandra Nath Sinha, Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal

The ‘**Bengal Fish Fest 2018**’ has being jointly organized by the **Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal** and the **Indian Chamber of Commerce** from 5th to 7th January 2018 at Nalban Food Park, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata. The festival aims to explore the possibility of promoting fisheries market within and outside the state of West Bengal.

The festival is playing host to over 75 fisheries from several districts of West Bengal who has put up stalls and exhibitions. The 3 day-long festival will witness discussions and interactive sessions on market intervention scheme for identifying new markets as well discuss on skill development, capacity creation, financing, storage facilities and market linkages for the fisheries.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the ‘Bengal Fish Festival 2018’, **Dr. Sashi Panja, Hon’ble Minister of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare (Independent Charge), Government of West Bengal**, hailed the ICC for successfully organising the festival for three consecutive years. She mentioned that the Women & Child Development and Social Welfare Department is working closely with the fisheries department where a number of women are being given training in export quality fish cutting and pisciculture which is opening doors for better employment opportunities for them.

Mr Chandra Nath Sinha, Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal explained how the fisheries department is working along with the State Government in fulfilling Hon’ble Chief Minister, Mamata Bannerjee’s vision of making West Bengal self-sufficient in fish production. He noted that West Bengal accounted for 20% of the country’s total fish production at 16.71 lakh metric tonne in 2016 and total exports of marine products was USD530.91 million implying 11.33% of the total marine products exports worth USD4, 687.94 million from India in 2016. He assured that his department is working hard to enhance production, processing and exports of the state. Moreover, the department is providing training to small fish farmers in new techniques and encouraging them to harvest different variety of fish. Along with practices to increase production,



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the Department is working on better packaging and marketing tactics to have an integrated growth in the entire fisheries sector of the state.

Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Hon'ble Mayor of Bidhannagar expressed gratitude towards the State Government for their different initiatives such as the '**Jal Dharo Jal Bharo**' programme of which has made a significant positive impact on pisciculture in the State. Nearly 1.5 lakh water bodies have been created surpassing the target under this programme and the same are being utilized for fish rearing and for production of big fish. According to him, the need of the hour is fulfilling the gap between supply and demand of fish in the state, increase production of different variety of fish also develop marketing strategies to promote West Bengal fish within and outside the state.

Mr Ravi Inder Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal welcomed the guests and said the state fisheries sector that the state government has framed policies that will drive the growth of the sector as a whole and encourage the development of fishery enterprises even in the least developed areas of the state. The principal aim of the Government is to provide better livelihood to small fish farmers and increase the income level of farm households.

The State Fisheries Development Corporation released a 'Handbook on Fisheries Statistics 2016-17'. The event also saw the launch of a mobile based fish marketing application called the 'Smart Fish App'. Benfish launched its first ever packaged dry fish during the event. Along with this, a unique home delivery service of fresh fish through refrigerate boxes on bikes was launched.

The festival also saw the signing of a MoU between the Fisheries Department of West Bengal and the Fisheries Department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Mr. Swapan Debnath, Hon'ble Minister of ARD & MSME, Government of West Bengal was the chief guest of the event and the other eminent dignitaries who graced the dais were **Mr. Sujit Bose, Member of Legislative Assembly, Mr. P K Mazumdar, Adviser-Agriculture & Allied Sector to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal, Mr Ramesh Verma, Secretary Fisheries, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Mr S. Mukherjee, Director of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal.**

Mr Santanu Saha, Commissioner, Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal delivered the formal vote of thanks.

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