1. Indian Fisheries: Current Scenario

L. Narasimha Murthy, A. Jeyakumari and Girija G. Phadke
Mumbai Research Centre of ICAR- Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, CIDCO
Admin Building, Sector I, Vashi, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra – 400 703

Indian fisheries and aquaculture is an important sector of food production providing nutritional security, besides livelihood support and gainful employment to more than 14 million people, and contributing to agricultural exports. The vibrancy of the sector can be visualized by the 11-fold increase that India achieved in fish production in just six decades, i.e. from 0.75 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 12.6 million tonnes during 2017-18. This resulted in an unparalleled average annual growth rate of over 4.5 percent over the years which have placed the country on the forefront of global fish production, only after China. Besides meeting the domestic needs, the dependence of over 14.5 million people on fisheries activities for their livelihood and foreign exchange earnings to the tune of US$ 7081.55 million (2017–18) from fish and fisheries products, amply justifies the importance of the sector on the country's economy and in livelihood security.

India is also an important country that produces fish through aquaculture in the world. India is home to more than 10 percent of the global fish diversity. Presently, the country ranks second in the world in total fish production with an annual fish production of about 12.60 million metric tonnes (2017-18). Nearly 65% of the production is from inland sector and about 50% of the total production is from culture fisheries, and constitutes about 6.3% of the global fish production. More than 50 different types of
fish and shellfish products are being exported to 75 countries around the world. Fish and fish products have presently emerged as the largest group in agricultural exports from India, with 13.77 lakh tonnes in terms of quantity and Rs. 45,106.89 crore in value. This accounts for around 10% of the total exports and nearly 20% of the agricultural exports, and contribute to about 0.91% of the GDP and 5.23% to the Ag - GVA of the country (nfdb.gov.in).

India being a sub-continent surrounded on the three sides with waters, has a greater chance for fishing and its allied activities. India's share of global fish production was around 6%, according to the FAO. In aquaculture, India is second only to China, with a 7% share in global production. India exported a tenth of its fish in 2016. Fish production also contributes around 1% to India's gross domestic product and over 5% to the agricultural GDP (FAO, 2018). The total exports of other products from India consisted about 172512 mt worth 2780.48 crores during 2017-2018 (MPEDA).