

Survey Report

on

**EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF FRESHWATER PEARL FARMING IN
MEGHALAYA STATE**

Prepared by
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Introduction

The delicate beauty of the pearl has fascinated mankind since the dawn of time and it has been cherished by the all sections of people. Over the millennia pearl is considered as a symbol of purity and serenity, adored as a precious gem and revered in worship. Pearls are mentioned in the earliest of the Indian Vedas, the Rig Veda, Ramayana and Mahabharata. In classical Sanskrit pearls were named as "Mukta" which means as much as purity or escape, alluding to the spirit of the mollusk that wants to escape and solidify as a pearl. Pearl culture is a billion dollar industry and one of the world's largest aquaculture activities in terms of value. Moreover, pearl cultivation is a lucrative venture because of the towering cost of the finished product. Realizing the scope and importance of freshwater pearl culture, the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar, India has developed a technology of growing pearls in freshwater environment.

Exploring the possibility of pearl culture in Meghalaya

Officers deputed from CIFA, Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar		
Sl. No.	Scientific personnel	
1.	Dr. A. K. Sahu	Head Aquaculture Production and Environment Division Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar-75 1002
2.	Dr. Shailesh Saurabh	Scientist Pearl Culture Unit Aquaculture Production and Environment Division Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar-75 1002 Mobile: 09439019303
3.	Dr. Utkal Laxmi Mohanty	Technical Officer Pearl Culture Unit Aquaculture Production and Environment Division Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar-75 1002 Mobile:09437011448

Interaction with following officers during visit

Sl. No	Officers/Person concerned	Office
1.	Shri B. Paul Muktieh	Chairman and MD NEDFI, Guwahati
2.	Shri S. K. Baruah	GM & CS, NEDFI, Guwahati
3.	Shri B. K. Singh	DGM (TEDF) NEDFI, Guwahati
4.	Mr. Sawang Tangjang	Executive Secretary, NEDFI, Guwahati
5.	Shri K. N. Kumar	IAS, Principal Secretary,

		Fisheries Dept., Govt. of Meghalaya
6.	Smt. P. Phawa	In charge State Fisheries Research and Training Centre Govt of Meghalaya
7.	Mr. P. Lamin Dumai Hia	Fisheries Officer Govt. of Meghalaya
8.	Ms. Meda	Fisheries Officer State Fisheries Research and Training Centre Govt. of Meghalaya
9.	Smt. I. R. Sangma	Director, Fisheries Department, Govt. of Meghalaya
10.	Shri A. F. Syiem	Dy. CEO, FFDA
11.	Shri Bripshon Momin	Planning Officer, Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of Meghalaya
12.	Dr. (Ms.) J. Lyngdoh	Scientist-C & Officer In charge Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Meghalaya
13.	Prof. Nirmalendu Saha	Head Department of Zoology North Eastern Hill University, Shillong
14.	Mr. Giles D. Shira	Fisheries Officer Govt. of Meghalaya
15.	Farmers	Garo Hill and Khasi area

Outcome of Survey

Bivalve species (*Lamellidens sp.*) responsible for pearl culture/farming is available in the Garo hill area of Meghalaya State. The climatic condition of Garo hill is also suitable for pearl farming. The NEDFI and Govt of Meghalaya can initiate pearl farming in this locality.

Role of CIFA

1. Provide hands on training to the Officials of State Fisheries Dept., Govt of Meghalaya
2. Provide training to the farmers of Meghalaya state.
3. Need based consultancy services

Since pearl farming is based on skill of grafting experts. So to train or enhance skill of the fisheries officers/farmers, CIFA can provide hands on Training on Freshwater pearl culture at Headquarters located at Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar-751002.

Photographs collected during and after Survey



A. K. Sahu
(A. K. Sahu)

Saurabh
(S. Saurabh)

U. L. Mohanty
(U. L. Mohanty)