

## **Task Force on Green Certification of Ornamental Fishes submitted the report.**

The National Level Task Force constituted under the aegis of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has finalized and submitted the Guidelines for Green certification of ornamental fishes to Ms. Leena Nair IAS, Chairman, MPEDA on 25.01.2010 at a function organized at MPEDA Head Office, Cochin. The Task Force for this purpose was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. E G Silas, Former Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, after the International Workshop on Green certification of ornamental fishes organized from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008 by MPEDA in association with United Nations conference on Trade and development (UNCTAD) and project PIABA Brazil.



Shri. Kuruvilla Thomas, IFS, Director (Marketing), MPEDA gave the welcome address and introductory remarks. On accepting the report from the task force, Ms Leena Nair suggested that the document is the first of its kind in this sector be sent to

international organizations like FAO for constructive suggestions and later it can be released to the stake holders.

Green Certification or eco-labeling is the certification given to a product to ensure its environmental and socio-economic sustainability. It ensures product quality, safety and traceability which in turn would enhance the consumer acceptance of the product. The workshop held at Cochin from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008 was a milestone in this direction. It stressed the need for developing a value chain approach from collection/culture to export of ornamental fresh water fishes. The issue of Geographical indication of species is also addressed in the guidelines. In the case of ornamental fish, geographical indications become imperative as it will indicate the natural distribution of a species and the location / country it belongs to. This will give legal protection to the concerned species and help in the event of any IPR / patent issues.

The international workshop on green certification of ornamental fish held by MPEDA in association with UNCTAD and Project PIABA recommended the constitution of a National Task Force for developing the guidelines and criteria for green certification of freshwater ornamental fish from India. Accordingly, under the chairmanship of Dr. E.G. Silas, a seven member Task Force was constituted for the purpose. The task force has gone into all details regarding collection of ornamental fish from the wild, their handling , holding facilities, culture of ornamental fish species, their handling and the facilities needed for the export of these and also have looked in to the geographical indications of each species, and the requirements needed for the import of exotic species. The task force document gives in detail all requirements and criteria necessary for each link in the value chain system, the adoption of which would enable traceability and information about the way the fish is handled at various stages of chain of custody. This also assures sustainability and safeguard of environment from which the fish are collected either from the wild or the culture system. This would also enable supply of healthy fish which will have consumer acceptability at premium price. The guidelines developed for green certification of freshwater ornamental fishes is first of its kind in the world.

The other members of the Task Force are, Dr. A Gopalakrishnan, NBFGR, Kochi  
Dr. A Ramachandran, CUSAT, Kochi, Dr. T V Anna Mercy, College of Fisheries,  
Panangad, Mr. Pushpangadan K R, Ornamental Fish Exporter, Cochin, Mr. Kripan  
Sarkar, Ornamental fish Breeder, West Bengal, Dr. Anikuttan. K.K, Asst. Director  
(OFD), MPEDA and Mr. Anilkumar P, Former Asst. Director, OFD, MPEDA