

ICAR-CIARI Advances Fish Seed Self-Sufficiency in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Produces Six Lakh Carp Eggs and Spawn



Sri Vijaya Puram | June 18, 2026

In a significant step towards achieving self-sufficiency in fish seed production in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Fisheries Science Division (FSD) of ICAR–Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI) has successfully conducted a series of induced breeding programmes of Indian Major Carps across South Andaman.

The breeding programmes were carried out between June 5 and 15 at the Institute’s research and field facilities, including the Bloomsdale Research Farm, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Sippighat, and other locations in South Andaman. The initiative resulted in the production of approximately six lakh fertilized eggs and carp spawn, which will be reared in nursery units for the production of fry and fingerlings for distribution to fish farmers across the islands, in addition to supporting table-size fish production.

Dr. Jai Sundar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, stated that the fish breeding initiatives are part of the Institute’s ongoing efforts to ensure the availability of quality fish seed and planting materials. He emphasized that such programmes contribute significantly towards reducing dependence on external sources and strengthening self-sufficiency in agricultural and fisheries inputs in the Islands.

Highlighting the importance of the achievement, Dr. M. Muruganandam, Principal Scientist and Head of the Fisheries Science Division, said the successful breeding programmes demonstrate the Division's commitment to enhancing the availability of quality fish seed for island farmers and promoting sustainable freshwater aquaculture. He added that the Institute is working to accelerate progress towards self-sufficiency in fish seed supply and overall fish production in the region.

As part of these efforts, the Fisheries Science Division will organize a **Field Day on June 25, 2026**, at the Fish Hatchery Unit of ICAR-CIARI's Main Campus at Bathubasthi, Garacharma Research Farm. The programme aims to disseminate improved carp breeding and seed production technologies among stakeholders.

The induced breeding and seed production activities are being coordinated by Mr. Chittaranjan Raul, Scientist (Aquaculture), along with the staff of the Fisheries Science Division.

The upcoming Field Day will feature live demonstrations on induced carp breeding, hatchery management, nursery rearing and scientific fish seed production techniques. Fish farmers, members of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), students, entrepreneurs and field functionaries from departments such as Fisheries, Agriculture and ATMA have been invited to participate.

According to ICAR-CIARI, the event will provide participants with an opportunity to interact directly with scientists and gain practical insights into scientific carp seed production and nursery management practices. Interested stakeholders have been encouraged to attend and benefit from the latest technologies developed by the Institute for enhancing fish production and aquaculture-based livelihoods.

The Institute noted that the quality fish seed produced through these programmes will support the expansion of freshwater aquaculture and strengthen livelihood opportunities for farming communities across the Islands.

ICAR-CIARI has also expressed its willingness to conduct similar field demonstrations and breeding programmes at farmers' ponds and aquaculture facilities where adequate infrastructure and water resources are available. Scientists and technical personnel of the Institute can facilitate induced breeding operations and provide on-site technical guidance, helping expand local fish seed production capacity and improve aquaculture productivity throughout the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.