

NATIONAL FISH SEED FARM KATHUA, J&K

The students of M.Sc Integrated Zoology , Semester 7th from Central University of Jammu (CUJ) visited the National fish seed farm Kathua, J&K on 5th September 2019 for a full day study on Induced fish breeding and management.

National fish seed farm institute in Kathua, J&K initiated its work during the year 1984 under a centrally sponsored project. It is one of the largest fish seed farm in India and also the main premier centre for the development of pond fisheries in Jammu and Kashmir. Total area of the farm at present is 360 kanals (18 Hectares). Seeds produced in this farm are supplied to the farmers at subsidised rates to initiate and propagate fish culture and development for market.



The Deputy Director of the farm, **Shri Kulbushan Verma** guided the students about the daily activities like techniques of seed packaging, importance of brown algae and water hyacinth in pool along with the demonstration of netting practice and induced breeding using ovatite. A lecture about the Fish seed culture and Composite fish farming was given by Assistant Section officer Mr. Mehran Mustafa.



The farm practises a Chinese hatchery system for the preparation of fish seeds. A total of 25 ponds are there in the fish seed farm out of which 9 are nurseries, 5 are rearing ponds and rest 11 are stocking ponds. The species which are being cultivated include: 3 Major Indigenous Carps, *Catla catla* (Catla), *Labeo rohita* (Rohu), *Cirrhinus mrigala* (Mrigal) and 3 Exotic Carps, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* (Silver carp), *Ctenopharyngodon idella* (Grass Carp), *Cyprinus carpio* (Common Carp).



The faculty members, **Prof N.K Tripathi** and **Dr. Anjali Dhar** accompanied the students to the farm. The students involved in the visit felt that these type of field activities must be organised at regular intervals in order to enhance the practical knowledge of the students about the subject.