

## Indian Immunologicals signs MoU with ICAR-CIFA for fish vaccine development

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### For the commercial development of vaccine against Hemorrhagic Septicemia in freshwater fishes

Hyderabad-based Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) has announced partnership with Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar, an Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institute for the commercial development of vaccine against Hemorrhagic Septicemia, also called *Aeromonas* Septicemia, Ulcer Disease or Red-Sore Disease in freshwater fish.

IIL ventured into aqua business in October 2022 by launching products for aquaculture health market dealing with pond management and fish or shrimp gut management and subsequently announced commercial development of fish vaccines with ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE).

Hemorrhagic Septicemia in freshwater fishes is caused by *Aeromonas hydrophila*, an opportunistic pathogenic bacterium. This infection is the scourge of fresh and brackish water fish farming worldwide and is considered as a significant economic problem in Indian aquaculture over the past decades. All the cultured freshwater fish species in India like rohu, catla, mrigal, silver carp, grass carp, common carp, medium carps, channel catfish, eel, etc. are susceptible to this disease.

Over the years, antibiotics and chemotherapeutants are used for controlling bacterial diseases including *A. hydrophila*. Now bacterial pathogens have become resistant to these chemicals, when used over an extended period and some chemicals pose environmental health hazards. In this context, vaccination is the most promising and environmentally safe concept for controlling diseases.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr K Anand Kumar, Managing Director, Indian Immunologicals Limited said, "We are working at multiple-fronts in defining pathways for commercial development of fish vaccines in India".