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Knowledge Innovation
Cluster Foundation

SUPPORTING FARMERS AND CELEBRATING CULTURE:

MTI Hub's Visit to the 45th Fish Fair

PREPARED BY

Manipur Technology Innovation Hub
(MTI HUB)

45th Fish Fair-Cum-Fish Crop Competition



Date : 2nd November, 2024

Venue : Hapta Kangjeibung, Imphal

Event Overview

The 45th Fish Fair-cum-Fish Crop Competition, held on November 2, 2024, at Hapta Kangjeibung, Imphal, was a grand success organized by the Department of Fisheries, Government of Manipur. The fair was timed strategically, taking place one day before Ningol Chakkouba, a significant festival in Manipur, to ensure fresh fish supply to the public at affordable, government-fixed prices. The fair provided a meaningful opportunity for fish farmers, as well as the public who came in large numbers to celebrate the festival with locally-sourced fish.

With over 180 stalls featuring around 250 fish farmers, including some displaced by recent communal unrest, the event recorded the sale of 1.56 lakh kilograms of fish—exceeding the target of 1.5 lakh kg and generating more than Rs. 37.5 lakhs in revenue within the day. Additionally, stalls for agro-horticultural products highlighted the fair's broad agricultural focus.

Dignitaries and Inauguration

The event was inaugurated with the presence of esteemed guests:

- **Shri Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba**, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
- **Shri Heikham Dingo Singh**, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Fisheries & Skill, Labour, Employment & Entrepreneurship, Manipur
- **Shri Sapam Kunjakeshwor Singh**, Hon'ble MLA, Patsoi Assembly Constituency
- **Shri Khongbantabam Ibomcha**, Hon'ble MLA, Lamlai Assembly Constituency
- **Shri Thongam Santi Singh**, Hon'ble MLA, Moirang Assembly Constituency

Their presence highlighted the significance of promoting local fisheries to support sustainable livelihoods and cultural traditions in Manipur.

Government Support and Address by Fisheries Minister Heikham Dingo Singh

During his address, Minister Heikham Dingo Singh emphasized the government's ongoing commitment to achieving self-sufficiency in fish production, reducing dependency on fish imports, and promoting sustainable livelihoods among fish farmers.

Since 2017, the state has undertaken various initiatives under the Shareng Project and Loktak Livelihood Mission to bolster fish production through targeted assistance, training, and financial support. The Minister reported that these efforts have led to a notable rise in Manipur's annual fish production—from 25,000 metric tons in 2019-2020 to 35,000-36,000 metric tons in 2024. Nevertheless, the demand for fish in the state has also increased significantly, currently estimated at 52,000-53,000 metric tons. Despite the progress, the state continues to face a shortfall of 15,000-16,000 metric tons annually, with Rs. 2 crore worth of fish still imported each year to bridge this gap.

Participation and Community Impact

Farmers from various districts, notably Imphal-West, Imphal-East, Bishnupur, and Senapati, showcased their fish, reflecting the diverse fish farming community across Manipur. Additionally, stalls were dedicated to Internally Displaced People (IDPs) affected by communal violence, allowing them to participate and support their livelihoods.

The timing of the fair, aligned with Ningol Chakkouba, benefited both farmers and the public. Fish farmers gained a high-demand market, while buyers had access to fresh fish for their festival preparations, creating a mutually beneficial environment.

Fish Varieties and Pricing

The Department of Fisheries ensured that all fish varieties were available at standardized prices, making them accessible to the public for the festival. The fish varieties included popular types such as Catla, Rohu, Mrigal, Common Carp, Grass Carp, Silver Carp, Pengba (Khabak), Ngahei, Sareng, Ngaton, Ukabi, Porom, Tunghanbi, Java Puti, and Meitei Ngakra. Each variety was priced according to size and weight, as listed below:

Fish Variety	Weight Category	Price (Rs./kg)
Catla	Below 2 Kg	220
	2 Kg and above	300
	5 Kg and above	380
Rohu	Below 1 Kg	220
	1 Kg and above	280
	2 Kg and above	350
Mrigal	Below 1 Kg	220
	1 Kg and above	280
	2 Kg and above	350
Common Carp	Below 1 Kg	220
	1 Kg and above	250
	2 Kg and above	280
Grass Carp	Below 2 Kg	250
	2 Kg and above	280
	3 Kg and above	320
	5 Kg and above	380

Fish Variety	Weight Category	Price (Rs./kg)
Silver Carp	Below 3 Kg	200
	3 Kg and above	220
Pengba/Khabak	Below 300 gm	450
	Above 300 gm	550
Ngahei	1 Kg and above	220
	3 Kg and above	300
Sareng	Up to 1 Kg	1100
	1 Kg and above	1200
Ngaton	Per Kg	450
Ukabi	Per Kg	250
Porom	Per Kg	300
Tunghanbi	Per Kg	150
Java Puti	Per Kg	220
Meitei Ngakra	Per Kg	900

Competition Results

The Fisheries Department also held a fish crop competition to recognize outstanding fish farmers. The top prize in the individual category went to **Salam Lokendro Singh** of Laphupat Tera, sponsored by DFO Imphal West, for his remarkable production of 43,765 kg of fish. The second and third prizes were awarded to **Ningthoujam Basanta** of Khordak and **Laimujam Dinamani** of Tentha, who produced 17,462 kg and 17,366 kg of fish, respectively.

Additionally, **Salam Lokendro Singh** won the prize for highest indigenous fish production with 9,735 kg. In total, 20 farmers received consolation prizes, acknowledging their hard work and contributions to the fair's success.

District-wise Production Awards were also presented, with DFO Imphal West **K Gunapati Devi** emerging as the highest producer in the valley region with 47,545 kg and DFO Chandel **Sapam Jiten Singh** as the highest producer in the hill region with 2,770 kg.

Showcasing Startup Strength: Nga Keithel's Success at the Fair

Nga Keithel, a startup incubated at the Manipur Technology Innovation Hub (MTI Hub), made a notable impact at the 45th Fish Fair cum Fish Crop Competition, engaging the public and achieving strong sales with 900kg (approx.) of fish sold. As an innovative platform focused on providing fresh, locally-sourced fish and agro products, Nga Keithel distinguished itself among the numerous stalls through its unique, community-oriented approach. By offering high-quality, affordable fish, Nga Keithel demonstrated how startups can transform traditional sectors, emphasizing sustainable practices and consumer needs.



Manipur Technology Innovation Hub Team's Engagement

The MTI Hub team used the fair as an opportunity to directly interact with fish farmers, understanding their unique challenges in fish production and sales. The farmers expressed concerns about:

- **Market accessibility and competition**
- **Transportation logistics and associated costs**
- **Need for technological support to improve yield and reduce spoilage**

The MTI Hub team gathered these insights to identify potential areas where technology and innovation could address these issues, thereby supporting the growth of Manipur's fishery sector.

Key Takeaways

- **Festival Readiness:** By organizing the fair a day before Ningol Chakkouba, the event ensured that families could access fresh fish for their celebrations, fostering a connection between agriculture, economy, and culture.
- **Empowering Farmers and IDPs:** The fair provided a platform for both farmers and Internally Displaced People, supporting local livelihoods and inclusivity.
- **Collaboration for Innovation:** The MTI Hub team's discussions with farmers aimed at understanding ground-level issues, with the goal of developing tailored, technology-driven solutions to enhance the local fishery sector.

Conclusion

The 45th Fish Fair cum Fish Crop Competition successfully combined tradition with economic opportunity. Organized on the eve of Ningol Chakkouba, the fair met a dual purpose: providing quality fish to the public for the festival while supporting the livelihood of fish farmers. Manipur Technology Innovation Hub's active involvement highlighted the role of innovation and technology in addressing local agricultural challenges and emphasized the need for ongoing support in fish production. Through this event, Manipur is one step closer to its goal of self-reliance in the fishery sector, setting an example of community-based economic growth and resilience.

Inputs: Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Manipur, e-pao.net, Chronicle News Service, The Sangai Express.

45th Department of Fishery, Government of Manipur
FISH FAIR-CUM-FISH CROP COMPETITION
 2nd November 2024
 at Hapta Kangjeibung, Imphal

CATLA	ROHU	MRIGAL	COMMON CARP	GRASS CARP	SILVER CARP	PENGBA/KHABAK	NGAHEI	SARENG (W. attu)
Below 2Kg. ₹220	Below 1Kg. ₹220	Below 1Kg. ₹220	Below 1Kg. ₹220	Below 2Kg. ₹250	Below 3Kg. ₹200	Below 300gm ₹450	1Kg. Above ₹220	Upto 1Kg. ₹1100
2Kg. & Above ₹300	1Kg. & Above ₹280	1Kg. & Above ₹280	1Kg. & Above ₹250	2Kg. & Above ₹280	3Kg. & Above ₹320	Above 300gm ₹550	3Kg. Above ₹300	1Kg. & Above ₹1200
5Kg. & Above ₹380	2Kg. & Above ₹350	2Kg. & Above ₹350	2Kg. & Above ₹280	5Kg. & Above ₹380	3Kg. & Above ₹220			

NGATON	UKABI (Anabas)	POROM (Murrel)	Tunghanbi (Titapia)	JAVA PUTI	MEITEI NGAKRA
₹60 Per Kg.	₹120 Per Kg.	₹300 Per Kg.	₹150 Per Kg.	₹20 Per Kg.	₹800 Per Kg.

Snapshots

Department of Fishery, Government of Manipur

45th FISH FAIR

cum Fish Crop Competition

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CATLA	ROHU	MRIGAL	COMMON CARP	GRASS CARP	SILVER CARP	PENGBA/KHABAK	NGAHEI	SARENG (W. attu)
								
Below 2Kg. ₹220 2Kg. & Above ₹300 5Kg. & Above ₹380	Below 1Kg. ₹220 1Kg. & Above ₹280 2Kg. & Above ₹350	Below 1Kg. ₹220 1Kg. & Above ₹280 2Kg. & Above ₹350	Below 1Kg. ₹220 1Kg. & Above ₹250 2Kg. & Above ₹280	Below 2Kg. ₹250 2Kg. & Above ₹280 3Kg. & Above ₹320 5Kg. & Above ₹380	Below 3Kg. ₹200 3Kg. & Above ₹220	Below 300gm ₹450 Above 300gm ₹550	1Kg. Above ₹220 3Kg. Above ₹300	Upto 1Kg. ₹1100 1Kg. & Above ₹1200

NGATON	UKABI (Anabas)	POROM (Murrel)	Tunghanbi (Tilapia)	JAVA PUTI	MEITEI NGAIRA
					
Per Kg. ₹450	Per Kg. ₹250	Per Kg. ₹300	Per Kg. ₹150	Per Kg. ₹220	Per Kg. ₹900







