

M.S. Swaminathan Centenary Fisheries Fair

Fish for All and Ever: A Pathway Towards Biohappiness

February 26–27, 2026



Venue: MSSRF, Chennai



DAY 1 26 February 2026
Thursday

Time	Session / Activity	Details / Speakers
Session 1	Inaugural Session	Welcome
11:00 am – 12:00 noon	Coordinators: Dr. R.Rengalakshmi Dr. S. Velvizhi	Dr. R. Rengalakshmi Executive Director - Area Operations, MSSRF
		Introductory Remarks
		Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Chairperson, MSSRF
		Special Remarks
		Ms. Kalaichelvi , Street fish vendor, Cuddalore
		Mr. Murukesan , Mangrove conservationist, Vypin island
		Dr. Sudheer Joseph , Group Director, INCOIS, Hyderabad
		Dr. Grinson George , Director, ICAR -CMFRI, Cochin
		Ms. V. Chelsasini, IAS Director of Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala
		Dr. B. Meenakumari Former DDG (Fisheries), ICAR, New Delhi Former Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Govt of India
		Launches:
		Release of Publication: Tides of Transformation
		Release of 16th Year Annual Report: Fish for All Research and Training Centre
		Recognizing Community Champions - Stewards of Biohappiness



DAY 1

26 February 2026

Thursday

12:00 noon – 12:30 pm	Exhibition Inauguration	Dr. Grinson George, Director, ICAR -CMFRI, Cochin
	Coordinators: Dr. M. Utichimahali Ms. A.Sathiyajothi Mr. T.Selvarasu	Ms. V. Chelsasini, IAS, Director of Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala From Sea to Society: Showcasing community enterprises from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Puducherry
Session 2	Keynote Address 1: Promoting Responsible Fisheries: Innovations, Governance, and Sustainable Livelihoods	
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Coordinator: Dr. S. Velvizhi Rapporteurs: Ms. A. Sathiya Jothi Ms. S. Simaanchana	Chair: Dr. T. Balasubramaniyan Advisor and Former Vice-Chancellor, Chettinad Academy of Research & Education Keynote Speaker Dr. B. Meenakumari Former DDG (Fisheries), ICAR, New Delhi Former Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Govt of India
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Lunch Break	
Session 3	Panel Discussion 1: Securing the Future of Artisanal Fishers -Safety, Ecosystems and Climate Resilience	
02:30 – 04:00 pm	Coordinator: Ms. N.A. Anbuvaahini Rapporteurs: Ms. A. Shwetha Tony Dr. R. Murugan	Chair: Dr. K. Sunil Mohamed, Principal Scientist (Rtd) ICAR-CMFRI & Chair, Sustainable Seafood Network of India Panellists: Dr. Sudheer Joseph, Group Director, INCOIS, Hyderabad Strengthening Artisanal Fishers' Sea Safety through Impact Based Early Warnings and Ocean State Forecasts



DAY 1

26 February 2026

Thursdays

	Dr. T.T. Ajith Kumar, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR-NBFGR, Cochin Conserving Aquatic Genetic Resources to Strengthen Small Scale - Fishers' Livelihoods Dr. K. Kathiresan, Honorary Professor & Former Director, CAS in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, Parangipettai Mangrove-Based Livelihoods to Strengthen Livelihoods of Small-Scale Fishers Commandant S. Prem Kumar Regional Fisheries & Env't. Officer, Coast Guard Region (East) Strengthening Coastal Security for Artisanal Fishers Search and Rescue Preparedness Dr. R. Nagarajan, Head, GIS and Remote Sensing, MSSRF, Chennai Role of Advanced Digital Technology for Securing the Livelihoods of Small-Scale Fishers
04:00 – 04:15 pm	Tea Break



Session 4	Panel Discussion 2: Women-Led Production Technologies: Advancing Livelihoods, Leadership and Gender Transformation in Fisheries - Case studies from MSSRF	
4:15 pm – 5:45 pm	Coordinator: Dr. Anamika Ajay Rapporteurs: Dr.M. Ponmani Ms.G. Gayathri	Chair: Dr. Nikita Gopal, Principal Scientist & Head, Extension, Information & Statistics Division, ICAR-CIFT Panellists: Ms. Manisha Patel, Lead, Sustainable Livelihoods and NRM, UTTHAN, Gujarat Livelihood Challenges and Opportunities for Fisherwomen: Insights from Gujarat Ms. A. Sathiya Jothi & Dr. S. Velvizhi Fish for All Research and Training Centre, MSSRF Women-Friendly Technologies in Building Post Harvest Fisheries value-chain Dr. N. Venugopalan, Programme Officer, ICSF, Chennai Empowering Women Fishers from a Fish workers Perspective Ms. Joyce Olive Rachel, Managing Director, TAFCOFED, Govt. of Tamil Nadu Role of Cooperatives in Sustainable Livelihoods of Fisheries Dr. Sourabh Kumar Dubey, Scientist CGIAR-WorldFish, India From Margins to Producers: Women’s Leadership in Nutrition-Sensitive Aquaculture in Odisha, India



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		Mr. V. Niraj Kumar, Associate Director Jaljeevika, Maharashtra Women Led Aquatic Livelihoods for Income and Resilience
Special Session	Cultural Expressions from Fishing Communities Celebrating Heritage, Resilience and Biohappiness	
06:00 – 7:30 pm	Coordinators: Mr.E. Tamizhazhagan Dr.M. Utchimahali Ms.R. Hema	• Vanchipattu – The Boat Song of Kerala • Machakarulam – Fisherfolk Songs of Andhra Pradesh • Amba Padalgal – The Sea Songs of Tamil Nadu • Transformation Journey of the Irular Fisher Community – Pichavaram • The Joy of the Fishermen song - Kanyakumari
7:30 PM	Dinner	



DAY 2 27 February 2026
Friday

Session 5	Keynote Address II: Voices from the Coast - Lived Realities of Small-scale fisher	
9:30 – 10:15 am	Coordinator: Dr. R. Ramasubramaniam Rapporteurs: Ms.S. Simaanchana Mr.S. Prakash	Chair: Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan CAS In Marine Biology, Annamalai University, Parangipettai Key Note Speaker: Mr. D. Veerappan, Irular Fisherman, Pichavaram, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu
10:15-10:30 am	Tea break	
Session 6	Panel Discussion 3: Perspectives of Fishermen on Livelihoods, Technology and Sustainability	
10:30 am – 12:00 noon	Coordinators: Ms.G. Gayathri Mr.E. Thamizhazhagan Rapporteurs: Mr.S. Prakash Ms.S. Ramya	Chair: Dr. E. Vivekanandan Senior Scientific Consultant, BoBP-INGO, Chennai Panelists: Mr. Veera Raghavaiah, Small craft fisher, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh Mr. Jayavithal Kubal, Cage farmer, Kumta, Karnataka Mr. Gurusamy, Shore seine fisher, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu Mr. Michael Raj, Mechanised fisher, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu Mr. Asokan, Farmer, Pokkali Farming system, Vypin, Kerala Mr. Kumaran, Fishing labour, Puducherry



Session 7	Panel Discussion 4: Perspectives of Fisherwomen on their work, well-being and Pathways to Biohappiness	
12:00 noon – 1:30 pm	Coordinator: Ms.A. Shwetha Tony Rapporteurs: Ms.S. Simaanchana Dr.M. Ponmani	Chair : RV Shajeevana IAS Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women & CEO, Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission Co-Chair: Dr. R. Rengalakshmi Executive Director, Area Operations, MSSRF Panellists: Ms. Muniyammal, Seaweed collector Rameshwaram Ms. Suppama, Salt worker, Tuticorin Ms. Vijaya Lakshmi, Dry fish processor Andhra Pradesh Ms. Mallika, Backwater fisher, Pichavaram Ms. Akila, Knowledge worker, Puducherry Ms. Sanghamithra, Fish farm labour, Kerala



1:30 – 2:30 pm	Lunch Break	
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Prize Distribution	MSS 100 Centenary Competition Winners
Session 8	Valedictory Session:	Call to Action for Inclusive and Sustainable Fisheries Dr. S.Velvizhi, Director, MSSRF
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Coordinators: Dr. R. Rengalakshmi Rapporteurs: Ms.A. Shwetha Tony Ms.S. Kanmani Raji	Chair: Dr. Devika Pillai ADG, Fisheries – Inland, ICAR – New Delhi Reflections: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Chairperson, MSSRF Dr. Kajal Chakraborty Director, ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow Dr. N. Subbaiyan, IAS , Secretary, Dept. of Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare, Govt. of TN.
	Vote of Thanks	