



Ornamental Fish Aquaculture

Why in News?

National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) under [Indian Council of Agricultural Research \(ICAR\)](#) is providing technical support to provide intensive training **to islanders of Lakshadweep for Ornamental Fish Aquaculture.**

What is Ornamental Fish Aquaculture?

- Ornamental fish culture is the **culture of attractive, colourful fishes** of various characteristics, which are **reared in a confined aquatic system.**
- Farmers and hobbyists mainly grow it and these fish are also known as **living jewels.**

What is this Initiative about?

▪ About:

- A total of 82 islanders, including 77 women, underwent training for an **experimental initiative aimed at promoting self-reliance** through community aquaculture.
- The NBFGR provided support and supplies for capacity building, including **culture devices** and **shrimp/clownfish seeds.**
- **Four community aquaculture units** involving 46 women were created and have successfully **raised ornamental shrimps to marketable size.**
- NBFGR also **maintains a germplasm resource center** on Agatti Island for marine ornamental organism conservation and as a livelihood source for islanders.

▪ Significance:

- **Limited resources** on the island, mostly in the form of **coconut and tuna fish** make it important.
- **During the monsoon season, fishing virtually comes to a halt,** shutting out a key economic activity.
 - However, ornamental fish aquaculture is expected to sustain the rhythm of economic life in the islands.

What is ICAR-NBFGR?

- ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR) was established in December 1983 at Allahabad.
- It was established **under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).**
- It aims to **undertake research related to the conservation of fish germplasm resources** of the country.

[Source:TH](#)

