

Press Release from Fisheries Department

Sikkim Highlights Key Fisheries Issues at 12th Governing Body Meeting of NFDB, Hyderabad
Shri Puran Kumar Gurung, Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture Department, Animal Husbandry &
Veterinary Services Department, Fisheries Department and Horticulture Department,
Government of Sikkim, along with Mrs. Roshni Rai, Secretary, Fisheries Department, and Shri
Surendra Bhandari, Assistant Director-cum-State Nodal Officer (PMMSY), attended the 12th
Governing Body Meeting of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) held at
Hyderabad on 5th January 2026.

The meeting was chaired by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries,
Rajiv Ranjan Singh, and was attended by State Fisheries Ministers, senior officials from States
and Union Territories, and NFDB representatives.

During the meeting, the Hon'ble Minister from Sikkim raised key issues critical to fisheries
development in hill and north-eastern states. These included revision of the existing cost norms
for exposure visits of fish farmers outside the State, which are presently inadequate for long-
distance learning visits. He also sought NFDB support for organising Buyers-Sellers Meets, Fish
Melas and Expos outside the State at major market centres such as Siliguri, Kolkata and New
Delhi to promote Sikkim's high-value Rainbow Trout. Further, he proposed that future NFDB
Governing Body meetings may be organised in north-eastern states, including Sikkim, and
requested support for implementation of the Organic Fisheries Cluster in the State as per the
Strategic Action Plan submitted to NFDB.

On 6th January 2026, the Secretary and Assistant Director, Fisheries Department, visited the
NFDB office at Hyderabad and held discussions with the Chief Executive and senior officers.
The Department sought support for an exposure visit of State officials to Denmark on advanced
trout breeding and farming technologies, including organic trout practices, biosecurity and eyed
ova management, in view of Sikkim's ongoing import of trout eyed ova under PMMSY. Support
was also requested for establishment of the Sikkim Fisheries Development Board, exposure visits
of officials to states such as Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland to study Aquapark models, and
exposure visits of trout farmers to Nepal, considering the close agro-ecological and socio-cultural
similarities that facilitate effective peer learning. In addition, suggestions for inclusion of state-
specific activities under PMMSY Phase-II, already submitted to the Ministry, were discussed.
The Fisheries Department, Government of Sikkim, reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable and
market-oriented fisheries development and expressed its appreciation to the Union Ministry and
NFDB for their continued support.