

Team of experts from Marine Products Export Development Authority visits Leh

8th Oct, 2026: A team of experts from the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) visited Leh on 8th of October 2026 to assess the potential for development of high-value cold-water fisheries and aquaculture in Ladakh with particular focus on trout production, scientific farming practices, quality certification, value addition and development of wider domestic and export market linkages. The visiting team comprised Dr. P. Jayagopal, Deputy Director Aquaculture Section, MPEDA, Kochi Kerala and Dr. S. Kandan (Consultant) MPEDA–Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), Tamil Nadu.

The visit was undertaken as part of the efforts of the Fisheries Department UT Ladakh to explore technical collaboration with MPEDA for strengthening the trout sector and assessing the existing production systems, infrastructure, quality standards, post-harvest practices and future marketing potential of trout produced under Ladakh's unique high-altitude cold-water conditions.

During their visit to Leh, the team visited Trout Fish Farm Sindhu Shey where they inspected the existing trout-rearing facilities and assessed water availability, production practices and the scope for further strengthening the farm. The experts shared technical suggestions relating to scientific stocking, feeding, water-quality management, fish health and hygienic handling of harvested fish.

The MPEDA experts also visited trout-rearing established under centrally sponsored scheme of PMMSY (Pradhan Mantri Matysa Sampada Yojna) by local fish farmers at Chochut village and interacted extensively with them to understand their experiences, production practices and challenges associated with trout farming. The farmers apprised the visiting team about issues relating to availability and cost of quality trout feed and seed, winter management, water availability, fish health, production costs and marketing of harvested trout. The experts provided technical guidance on scientific stocking density, feeding management, regular monitoring of water-quality parameters, disease prevention and hygienic harvesting and handling.



The experts observed that Ladakh's clean cold-water resources and distinctive high-altitude environment provide considerable potential for positioning Ladakh trout as a premium high-value product. They emphasized that consistent production, quality assurance, certification, cold-chain infrastructure, value addition and reliable market linkages would be essential for accessing wider domestic and potential export markets.

The visit is expected to facilitate greater technical collaboration between the Fisheries Department, UT Ladakh and MPEDA/RGCA in areas such as technical audit of trout farms, Good Aquaculture Practices, capacity building of fish farmers and departmental personnel, quality certification, post-harvest management, value addition, cold-chain development and exploration of suitable domestic and export markets.

The visit highlighted the significant potential of Leh, Chuchot and Nubra for developing a sustainable and commercially viable high-value cold-water fisheries sector, leveraging Ladakh's natural cold-water resources and combining scientific aquaculture practices with quality assurance, value addition and stronger market linkages for enhancing the income and livelihood opportunities of local fish farmers and entrepreneurs.