

NIFPHATT – Functions and activities

Back ground

The history of National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIFPHATT) coincides with the history of our modern fisheries of the country.

Integrated Fisheries Project, the forerunner of NIFPHATT was established in the year 1952 at Quilon as the offspring of a tripartite agreement among India, Norway and the UNDP as a fishermen community development programme, further extended its reach and coverage to the present day NIFPHATT. In 1963, the administration of the Project at Cochin was taken over by the Government of India renaming it as Integrated Fisheries Project and it continued the programmes as a Central Government scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture.

NIFPHATT as the erstwhile Integrated Fisheries Project, has rendered yeomen service to the country's fishery economy by spearheading modernization of fishing, processing and marketing industries and the socio economic development of various stakeholders in their rural midst.

Now, in response to the changed demands of this sector, the Ministry of Agriculture has decided to revalidate the mission and mandate of the Institute and to upgrade, update and fine tune its activities.

Facilities Available in NIFPHATT

Facilities available

1. Processing

The processing plant constructed by Norwegians has been refurbished through major renovation as per EU standards with a total floor area of 5200 Sq.m. with the facilities of pre-processing, processing, plate freezers, Individual Quick Freezer (IQF), IQF tunnel freezer and cold storage rooms. meat picking machine, slicer, skinning machine, squid cutting machine and filleting machine are other facilities available in the plant for production of consumer friendly and convenience product options.

The Canning Plant which produces different canned fish products and retortable pouch packed products is one of the key facilities of the Institute.

A rural technology development and dissemination centre is at function with model kitchen, silent cutter, vacuum packing machine, MAP machine and industrial cooking facilities which fully caters to the rural technology dissemination work of NIFPHATT meant for rural community.

2. Marketing

The marketing activities such as the sale of fish and fishery products are carried out through a ramifying retail network at Ernakulam, Palai and the sale of fish and fishery products in the rural areas and high ranges of Kerala is carried out by way of mobile marketing by deploying refrigerated and insulated departmental vehicles. In the cities like Kolkata, Goa, Vizag, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and also in North Eastern states, the sale is done through dealers.

3. Refrigeration

A full fledged and well equipped refrigeration plant with cold storage facilities with 126 sqm. capacity machine room is always at service providing support to the activities of the processing and marketing sections. Standby machineries & equipments are also available for uninterrupted working. One 100 tonnes new cold storage is also made available now.

4. Civil Wing

NIFPHATT has an exclusive civil section for civil refurbishment of the plant, hostels and living campuses. The wing extends consultancy in fisheries post harvest infrastructure.

5. HRD Wing

On the Job training in Post Harvest Technology & Quality control is being imparted to Under Graduates, Post Graduates, Research Scholars and Engineering Graduates by the wing. It also imparts training to the fisherwomen in hygienic handling and processing of various value added products using easily assimilable, rural appropriate technology. Besides Library facility, audio visual equipments also aids the training. A full fledged **Quality assurance laboratory** determines the quality and safety of the raw material and finished products. It is also deployed for training the students.

6. Regional base at Vizag

A regional base at Vizag with freezing plant complex with tunnel freezer, cold rooms, plate freezers, machineries & equipments for processing and class rooms for conducting training.

7. Direct fish landing facility

NIFPHATT possess a 110 m waterfront with adequate berthing facility of 44m width, facing the main channel. Around 25 boats can moor in a row. Four boats can land fish at the Jetty simultaneously. The easy, convenient and cheap mode of supply of raw material especially from Fishermen Cooperative Societies, Matsyafed, Lakshadweep Fisheries Deptt. and from Sister organizations can be ensured by their boats directly landing at NIFPHATT's Jetty. Fish landings are sorted, weighed, washed, iced and distributed for onward activities at the enclosed Fish Reception Hall to which the Jetty joins. Hence time lapse, quality loss, wastage and contamination can be avoided to the maximum possible.

Current Missions and mandate

1. Post harvest technology upgradation and its dissemination to beneficiaries such as rural fishermen community, small scale industries , Export Processing Houses, and students through consultancy, job work and training.
2. Value added product development by way of process and product diversification from all varieties of fish including low value, unconventional species and seasonally abundant fishes.
3. Imparting training in the field of post harvest technology, refrigeration technology, Quality control and value added products.
4. Providing consultancy services and training for rural development programmes/ women empowerment programmes in fish processing, supporting local fish farmers, self help groups of fisher community, fishermen's co-operative societies functioning under Panchayathi Raj Institutions.
5. Popularisation and test marketing of value added products from fish varieties including low value, unconventional species and seasonally abundant fishes.

6. Extension of the activities through popularization and test marketing of value added products to new areas and develop markets in all States in a phased manner with added attention to rural areas and enthusing entrepreneurs to enter into sea food processing industry.

Organization set up of NIFPHATT

NIFPHATT Head Quarters at Kochi has the following Division/Sections.

Processing and Marketing Division headed by Deputy Director (P&M), Refrigeration & Electrical section headed by Refrigeration Engineer, Civil Engineering Section headed by Asst. Engineer (Civil) and Administration and Accounts Section headed by Accounts Officer as Head of Office and Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO). A unit is functioning at Visakhapatnam with Officer in Charge as Head of Office and DDO.

All Division/Section Heads are controlled by Director who is the Head of the Department.

Liaison officer for SC/ST : Shri. K. Gopi, Refrigeration Engineer

Liaison officer for OBC : Shri. M.K. Rajan, Processing Technologist.

Powers of DIRECTOR

Director is the Head of Department under FR II(10) as well as for purposes of Delegation of Financial Power Rules. Director exercises all powers of Head of Department under Fundamental and Supplementary Rules, Delegation of Financial Powers Rules 1958, CCS (CCA) Rules 1965 and other Rules / Orders issued by Govt. of India from time to time.

Powers of Accounts officer/OIC (Vizag) as Head of Office

The Head of Offices exercise the powers of Controlling Officer under S.R. 191 for Traveling Allowances purpose in respect of Non-Gazetted staff of NIFPHATT and exercise the powers delegated to 'Head of Office' as regards contingent expenditure of miscellaneous expenditure subject to observance of the Rules, Orders, restrictions and scales as may be made, imposed or prescribed by the Govt. of India from time to time.