

Breeding of *Channa andrao*: A breakthrough for conservation and sustainable ornamental fish production by ICAR-NBFGR and Gauhati University

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ICAR–National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources and Gauhati University, jointly standardized the induced breeding protocol for *Channa andrao*, an endemic ornamental snakehead fish of the Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot. The research was carried out at the ICAR-NBFGR's Live Fish Germplasm Resource Centre at Gauhati University. *Channa andrao* is one of the most heavily traded ornamental fish species and is endemic to the Eastern Himalayas, making its conservation and sustainable utilization a priority. The study, recently published in the *Fish Physiology and Biochemistry* journal reports the development of captive breeding strategies for ornamental snakehead *Channa andrao*, based on dose-dependent reproductive performance, embryonic development, and mouthbrooding behaviour under GnRHa induction. This breakthrough provides a sustainable alternative to wild harvesting, enabling commercial seed production of *Channa andrao* while contributing significantly to the conservation of this valuable endemic ornamental fish species.



Channa andrao: (a) Adult Male (b) Adult Female