AWF has been named as preferred charity for the “ISPIM Innovation Summit: Building the Innovation Century” to be held at RMIT in Melbourne, Australia 10-13 December 2017.

CULTURE ACTIVITIES got a boost in India and the trade in fish seed expanded. An important development during that time was the establishment of the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) at Barrackpore in 1947 by the government of India, where fisheries officers from different states were trained – this facility was originally known as the Inland Fisheries Training Centre. With this establishment, several small ponds around Hooghly constituted a network of nurseries that evolved to be the centers of fry supply chains, and systematic marketing became possible with the establishment of a Fish Seed Syndicate.

The major carp culture sector of today owes its present flourishing status to Prof. Chaudhuri, who ushered in the system of “Induced Breeding of major carps” through administration of carp pituitary extract in the breeding of major carps, and standardized the system. It was on 10th July 1957, that the first success in induced breeding was achieved at Angul in Odisha by Dr. Chaudhuri with support from Dr. Ali Kunchi. The spawn that was produced out of this experiment was successfully raised into fry and later into fingerlings. This pioneering work, over years, has led to an aqua-explosion in the country, principally through quality major carp seed production and supplies to fish farmers from hundreds of hatcheries that sprang up in the country based on this induced breeding technology. The Indian fisheries sector has made great strides in the past five decades with incredible increases, from 0.75 million MT in 1950-51 to 9.58 million MT in 2013-14.

Aquaculture without Frontiers (Australia) Limited will be working with Universidad Tecnologica del Mar de Tamaulipas Bicentenario (UTMarT) which specializes in aquaculture, tourism and information and communication technology. There has been a long-term arrangement between the parties which was started with an earlier AWF USA USAID Farmer to Farmer project where AWF was involved in establishing an Oyster farming concept. The objective was to assist fishermen in Tamaulipas who were dealing with a depleted oyster situation and to take them on a journey (with their families) to help them become Oyster farmers thus creating a more sustainable income model.

UTMarT, being the specialist educational center of the area, is keen to establish a center of excellence for oysters and other similar shellfish as part of a new plan with the Tamaulipas State Government in creating an eco-coastal area based on long-term, resilient and sustainable activities. The launch and promotion of the COALAR Project will be at the ISPIM Conference on Building the Innovation Century 10-13 December 2017 at RMIT in Melbourne. It is planned that Dr. Antonio Garza de Yta, Rector of UTMarT, will be in Melbourne for this and for meetings with some of the Australian specialists.

In 2018 the plan is to bring two Mexican specialists to Australia to visit various locations for detailed discussions about oysters and then for one Australian specialist to travel to Mexico where workshops and further discussions will see the project develop. AWF is keen to meet the highest standards for the project and is having discussions with its MoU partner, Deakin University through Professor Giovanni Turchini, to get their input. In addition, there will be discussions with other organizations who have supported the project.