

## Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodhyay Krishi Puruskar 2016

Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India Shri Radha Mohan Singh ji gave away the first Zonal Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodhyay Krishi Puruskar 2016 for Zone XI to Shri A.Baburaj, an aqua farmer of Kozhikode district of Kerala. The award was presented on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016, marking the birth centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya at a function organized at ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode. Addressing the farmers on this occasion, Hon'ble Minsiter emphasized the need of recognizing the contribution of small and marginal farmers and the landless to agriculture and its allied sectors.



He lauded the efforts of Shri Babu Raj who has been practicing aqua farming for over two decades on his small farm under the technical guidance of ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi and ICAR-CIBA, Chennai. Shri Baburaj has specialized in production of pearl-spot fish in brackish water. Through his dedication to farming, he has inspired many youngsters to take to brackish water aquaculture in the neighboring villages. He has integrated agro-eco-tourism with aquaculture to enhance his farm income and uses social media effectively to promote his enterprise.



The Union Minister gave away the award consisting of a certificate, citation and a memento along with a cheque of Rs.50000/- to Shri Baburaj and felicitated him. Dr. K. Nirmal Babu, Director, ICAR-IISR Kozhikode and Dr Sreenath Dixit, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru participated in the award ceremony. Several farmers, fishermen, scientists from ICAR institutes and State Department Officials were present.