

Gujarat fisherman bags award for open sea cage culture

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The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute's (CMFRI) open sea cage farming model in Gujarat has received national recognition, with a fisherman associated with the institute bagging the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antoyodaya Krishi Puraskar instituted by ICAR this year.

Hasanbhai Musangara Jumabhai, a tribal fisherman of the Siddi community, got the award for his active involvement in open sea cage farming, guided by the Veraval Regional Centre of CMFRI, off the Veraval coast.

Hasanbhai is the leader of the fishermen co-operative society Bharat Admjuth Matsyodyog Mandali-Talala, in Gujarat.

CMFRI regional centre provided cages and technical guidance to the co-operative society in Veraval to carry out the farming as an alternate livelihood option for Siddi tribes in the region. The centre also offered the community a farming demonstration, training and hands-on exposure of the farming, under the Tribal Sub Plan outlay of the institute.

For the successful venture, the institute has supported the farming group financially and technically every year since 2011. The sea cage farm, which is regarded as one of the largest commercial sea farms in the country, comprised of 22 galvanised iron cages of 6 m diameter.

The tribes were empowered to operate the farm by themselves and they obtained four crops of lobsters and cobia, leading to provision of quality livelihood to the coastal folks and increased fish production.