

Fish to combat weed menace in water bodies

At a time when the excessive growth of aquatic weeds is posing a threat to the ecosystem of the fresh water resources, Ernakulam Krisjhi Vigyan Kendra of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has launched an initiative of growing fishes in the ponds to tackle the weed menace.

The KVK started the innovative technology of growing grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), a fresh water fish which consumes the aquatic weeds as feeds, to eliminate the aquatic weeds from the fresh water resources. It consumes the weeds as feeds up to the extent of 2 to 3 times of its body weight.

A Gopalakrishnan, Director, CMFRI, launched the programme by releasing fingerlings of grass carp into a temple pond in Thripunithura near Kochi. Among the 140 species of aquatic weed in the water bodies, the varieties such as salvinia, hydrilla and pistia are the most detrimental to the fresh water resources, he said. Grass carp consumes the weeds as feeds up to the extent of 2 to 3 times of its body weight.