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Cage culture of pearl spot proves a hit

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Kochi: The tribal community of Thandassery colony in Maradu is ecstatic as they got a bumper harvest of pearl spot (karimeen) in the cage culture project of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). The cage culture of pearl spot was started eight months ago under the tribal sub-plan (TSP) of the Union government.

During the harvest, the farmers got pearl spot with an average weight of 200-300 gm from two cages made of GI pipes with 4m width and length. Almost 750 fingerlings were stocked in two cages with a density of 20 numbers per square metre. Pearl Plus, the feed developed by CMFRI for pearl spot far-



Harvest of pearl spot in cage culture at Thandassery in Maradu

ming was used in the cage culture that was carried out by the institute with the participation of five families in the tribal community in Thandassery.

The CMFRI team under the leadership of principal

scientist Dr Boby Ignatius trained the tribes people in farming activities and empowered them to become entrepreneurs in cage culture, a less expensive farming method.

CMFRI officials said the

institute utilized the TSP to make the tribes self-reliant by empowering them to use cage farming venture. "The CMFRI has already developed economically viable cage farming models. We believe that the farming model is feasible among the tribal community to uplift their living standard," he said.

He said more people including women from Maradu municipality have approached them expressing their willingness to participate in the enterprise in future. "CMFRI has been carrying out the novel farming model among the tribes in all the maritime states in the country under the TSP," Gopalakrishnan said, adding that the institute would popularize the technology by conducting training programmes.