

Fish gene bank to help cope with climate change

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Experts have recommended setting up of a common gene bank for vulnerable fish species besides setting up fish sanctuaries for improvement of natural stocks in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change on fish stock and marine ecosystem.

The recommendations were made after the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) submitted the Country Status Report (CSR) about the impact of climate change on coastal fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The ICAR institute, the leading fish research body in the country, presented the report at a meeting between the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) and representatives



ROUGH SEAS AHEAD

from the SAARC nations held through video conference.

The report exposed disruptions caused by climate change in areas such as marine ecosystem, fish stock, harvesting sector; aquaculture, market and trade. The present

condition of fishing communities was also included in the report.

During the conference, members representing fisheries and aquaculture sector of SAARC member countries reviewed remedial steps to be taken to mitigate the

impact of climate change and finalised a set of recommendations to be followed by member countries.

In the recommendations, the meeting prioritised developing collaborative and comprehensive efforts to address climate vulnerabilities. Conduct of awareness programmes on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and expansion of open sea cage farming and pen culture in coastal water bodies were also listed among the recommendations. Among the other noteworthy recommendations finalised during the meeting include introduction of saline temperature tolerant and fast-growing fish species for coastal aquaculture, establishment of fish sanctuary for improvement of natural stocks and setting up common gene bank for vulnerable species.