

Rich haul from marine research body's cage culture

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute's (CMFRI) cage farming initiatives started yielding results with a mega fish harvest of pearl spot, seabass and tilapia.

Around 100 farmers, including women groups in Pizhala island near here, participated in cage farming enterprises under the guidance of CMFRI. The bumper catch assumes greater importance at a time when the capture fisheries are undergoing a stagnation period.

The farming was started seven months ago by stocking the fish seeds in cages made of GI pipes with the size of four-metre each width and length and six-metre depth. During the harvest done prior to the Christmas, the farmers got the seabass with an average weight of 3.5 kg and pearl spot with 250 g.

The mariculture division of the CMFRI provided training and other technical guidance to farmers in various stages of the farming from the stocking period to the harvest. The cage farming has been proved less expensive and economically viable, said A Gopalakrishnan, Director, CMFRI.

An amount of ₹100 only is required to produce a kg of pearl spot by using cage farming method. But the farmer will get ₹500-600 for a kg of live pear spot farmed in cages, he said.