

31 January 2017

Recirculating Aquaculture System set up

Kochi: The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has set up the recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) at its Vizhinjam Research Centre to boost the seed production of commercially important marine fishes.

The RAS, which filters water inside the fish tank helping to reuse the water, will be beneficial to the breed stock development of marine fishes. The CMFRI set up an RAS tank with a capacity of 30,000 litres, with an aim to popularise the sea cage farming to increase the production of marine species.

Inaugurating the facility, the Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Sudarshan Bhagat said farmer-friendly technologies should be developed to attract people into fish farming. "In order to solve the issues in the fisheries sector following the decline in the availability fishes from the sea, steps should be taken to improve the facilities and technologies for boosting the fish production through alternative ways", the minister said.

According to Dr A Gopalakrishnan, Director of CMFRI, the newly installed RAS facility could accelerate the growth of mariculture in the country. "Mariculture is the hope of future generation.

CMFRI is now focusing on research to enhance the mariculture activities through cage farming methods" he said adding that the sea cage farming of commercially important fish species such as silver pompano, cobia, groupers, lobsters etc. would help the country to increase its blue economy.