

CMFRI's recirculating aquaculture system to help fish production

Facility inaugurated at Vizhinjam centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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

Sea cage farming

The system filters water inside a fish tank, helping to reuse the water. It will be beneficial to brood stock development of marine fishes. The CMFRI set up an RAS tank with a capacity of 30,000 litres, with an aim to popularise sea cage farming, said a press release here.

Farmer-friendly technology

Inaugurating the facility, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Sudarshan Bhagat said farmer-friendly technologies should be developed to attract people to fish farming.

"In order to solve issues in the fisheries sector following the decline in the availability of fishes from the sea, steps should be taken to improve facilities and technologies for boosting fish production through alternative ways," the Minister said.

He said mariculture practices should be given due im-

MARINE WEALTH

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■ RAS facility can accelerate growth of mariculture in country: CMFRI director

portance to increase marine fish production. "Sea cage farming is one of the best alternatives to increase fish production," he said, while lauding the CMFRI for its initiatives to popularise the technology of cage farming across the coastal States.

In addition, farming of ornamental fishes, oysters and molluscs should also be promoted among the farmers by giving training to them, he added.

According to CMFRI Director A. Gopalakrishnan, the newly-installed RAS facility could accelerate the growth of mariculture in the country.

"Mariculture is the hope of the future generation. CMFRI is now focusing on research to enhance mariculture activities through cage farming methods," he said.