

Cage aquaculture spreading fast

Non-farming communities also turn to the low-cost fish farming model

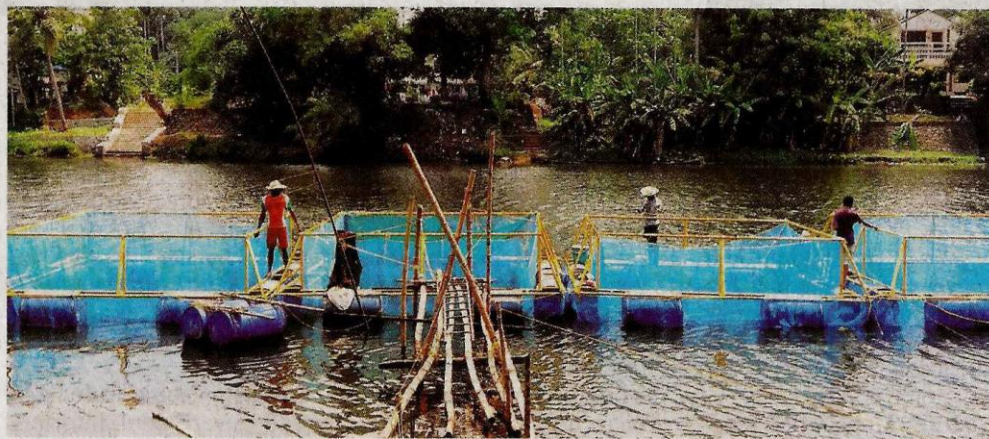
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Coastal aquaculture in the State is set to get a boost with cage fish farming becoming popular under the guidance of scientists at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.

Even non-farming communities have turned to the less expensive fish farming model, said a statement issued by CMFRI here.

The institute has provided technical support to those interested in cage farming by providing guidance in areas like cage fabrication and installation, site identification, seed selection, feed management, and trading.

Participants in the CMFRI training programmes from different parts of the State have launched farming of commercially important varieties such as pearl spot, sea bass, red snapper, tilapia



Net gain: Cage fish farming activities in full swing at Cherthala.

and giant trevally in the brackish and fresh water bodies in their respective regions.

Besides, Ernakulam where the maximum number of cage farming enterprises are in operation, the initiative has been started in six other districts - Kannur, Malappuram, Thrissur, Alap-

puzha, Kottayam and Kollam.

It is the success story of cage fish farming venture in Pizhala in Ernakulam which has attracted more people including non-farmers, said Imelda Joseph, head of the mariculture division. There are around 100 farming units in Pizhala Island where most

of the farmers are women, she said. Sea cage farming is popular in coastal States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, and Karnataka. Kerala coasts, brackish and fresh water resource have bright prospect for the cage farming of species such as pearl spot, seabass, red snapper and tilapia.