

CMFRI develops fish seed production tech for 3species

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) here has developed the seed production technology of three species of fish, which is expected to boost the mariculture industry and seafood export as well.

The successful development of captive brood stock and breeding technology for food fish pink ear emperor, locally known as 'yeri', marine ornamental fish *Marcias anthias* and ornamental shrimp camel was the first of its kind in the world, CMFRI said in a statement today.

A scientific team led by Dr M K Anil, Scientist in charge of the Vizhinjam Research Centre of the CMFRI developed the technology after two years of continuous attempt using the Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS), it said.

The pink ear emperor (*Lethrinus lentjan*), a high value food fish with superior flesh qualities and hardy nature, is a delicacy in the domestic market and has got a potential demand in global seafood markets too.

It attains a growth of up to 2 kg and fetches Rs 400 to 600 per kg in the domestic market. "Presently the open sea cage farming in the country is restricted to three or four species of marine fish. With a better growth rate and standardised breeding technology, the pink ear emperor is going to be a candidate species among cage fish farmers", Anil said.

The seed production of *Marcia's anthias* (*Pseudanthias Marcia*), which is a high value marine ornamental fish, was a great achievement as it exhibits complicated breeding habits, he said.

"The species is one of the most expensive reef fishes traded in the marine aquarium export market and fetches around USD 30 per fish in international market", he said adding that standardisation of larval rearing protocol of this species was also developed at the Centre successfully.

The technology developed by the CMFRI would also help the scientists to produce the fish seeds artificially without disrupting its ecosystem, he said.

On the camel shrimp (*Rhynchocinetes durbanensis*), he said it grows up to 45 cm in length and fetches USD 1012 per piece in the international market and Rs 500 Rs 700 in the local market. It was a hot pick among the aquarium hobbyists as well as traders.

"There are no published reports of successful captive breeding of the shrimp available so far" Anil said.