

State honours its fish farmers

The State government has declared awards for fish farmers in the State on the occasion of National Fish Farmers' Day on July 10.

The awards were announced by Fisheries Minister K. Mercykutty Amma in the capital here on Wednesday.

Awards are being given at the State and district-level for fish farmers who have made remarkable achievements in 2016-17 under the Matsya Samriddhi scheme, which is being implemented in all 14 districts in the State, with the cooperation of local bodies, for the promotion of inland fishing in the State. The fishing awards were decided by a committee chaired by K. K. Appukkuttan, former Principal Scientist, mussel division, CMFRI, Kochi, which had visited the fish farms in all 14 districts to assess the farming practices and yield.

The award for the best freshwater fish farmer was won by V.S. Sreenish of Thrissur, while the award for the best shrimp farmer in the State was won by R. Sudarsanan of Kollam.

Both awards carry a cash prize of Rs. 50,000 each, a plaque, and certificate.

The award for the best Pearl spot farming, which entails a cash prize of Rs. 25,000, was won by Devika Kaladharan of Alappuzha.

Udaya women's self help group, Kasaragod, won the award for best mussel farming, winning a cash prize of Rs. 15,000.

The award for the best State-level aquaculture coordinator was won by K.K. Verghese of Ernakulam, while the Senapathy grama panchayat in Idukki has won the award for the best local body involved in aquaculture.

Both awards carry cash prizes of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 50,000 respectively.

District-level awards for best freshwater farming and shrimp farming was also declared, each of which carries a cash prize of Rs. 15,000.

As part of the National Fish Farming Day celebrations, the State will launch the second phase of the people's participatory fish farming scheme, under which the aim is to double productivity from the current 40,000 tonnes to 80,000 tonnes in three years. A get-together of fish farmers and a fisheries 'adalat' are also being organised from July 10-12.

The National Fish Farming Day celebrations will be inaugurated and the farmers' awards distributed by Governor P. Sathasivam here on July 10.