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NEWS

Fishermen, scientists to talk on weather system

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The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) will host a three-day international meet on Societal Applications in Fisheries and Aquaculture using Remote Sensing Imagery (SAFARI) in Kochi from January 15-17.

The symposium will have special session to discuss ways and means to improve weather warning system for fishermen in Kerala in the background of the recent Cyclone Ockhi disaster. Fishermen, experts from Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), scientists from the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS), Hyderabad and officials from the Department of Fisheries will converge at the meet to analyse the efficacy of the system and to propose the required amendments for improving the facility.

“The session will set a platform where the scientific and fishermen communities could share their views and suggestions for boosting the communication mechanism to reduce the calamities following the natural disasters like Ockhi”, said CMFRI director Dr A. Gopalakrishnan.

Dr Gopalakrishnan opined that majority of the fishermen in Kerala are unaware of the weather forecasting services provided by many agencies. “It is quite evident that many of forecasting facilities are not directly reaching out to the targeted community. The mobile app services for weather forecasting, ocean states and potential fishing zone are not successful in Kerala, while those are a hit in many other states”, he added.