

Expert calls for better utilisation of remote sensing technology

SAFARI-2 opens at Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Director General of Indian Council for Agriculture Trilochan Mohapatra has called for better utilisation of new technology, including induction of drones, to enhance the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the country.

He said that scientists from different research areas must join hands to improve predictability, deep sea exploration and induction of the latest technology to realise the call for a Blue Revolution even as the Union government was contemplating a deep sea mission.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the three-day international symposium on remote sensing for ecosystem analysis and fisheries as part of Societal Application in Fisheries and Aquaculture Using Remote Sensing Imagery (SAFARI-2). The programme is being hosted by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in the city.

Mr. Mohapatra highlighted the achievements of the Indian marine fisheries in terms of improving livelihoods and contributions towards the economy. Satellite remote sensing assumes significance in the context of the effective monitoring and management of marine resources.

The Chairperson of the National Biodiversity Authority, B. Meenakumari, was the guest of honour at the in-



CMFRI Director A. Gopalakrishnan handing over a memento to ICAR Director General Trilochan Mohapatra during a symposium organised at CMFRI on Monday.

auguration of the three-day symposium.

A. Gopalakrishnan, Direc-

tor of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, which is hosting the event, wel-

comed the gathering. J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General of ICAR; Lasse H. Pettersson, Director for International Cooperation and Management, Nansen Environmental Remote Sensing Centre, Norway; N.R. Menon, Chairman of the CMFRI Research Advisory Committee and Nansen Environmental Research Centre, India; and M. Forster Director of the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull Rodney, spoke.

The opening day of the symposium saw sessions on biodiversity as well as aquatic environment and ecology.

Fish and rice story recreated

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The story of fish and rice unfolds in its own unique narrative at an exhibition organised at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in the city as part of a three-day international symposium on remote sensing for ecosystem analysis and fisheries.

The symposium, part of Societal Application in Fisheries and Aquaculture Using Remote Sensing Imagery (SAFARI-2), was inaugurated on Monday by Director General of Indian Council for Agricultural Research Trilochan Mohapatra.

One section of the exhibi-

tion provides inputs as well as material for those interested in taking up farming in confined spaces such as terraces and backyards with a ready reckoner on methods and ideas, another section brings to life the results of efforts by people to innovate and adapt to the growing food requirements and questions of farmer's remuneration.

The sections that take the cake include the one for sale of live fish that are farmed in cages in the backwaters off Kochi and the one on pokkali rice. Along with the rice, value added products from pokkali rice were sold briskly on Monday.

People waited patiently for fresh supplies of live fishes to arrive at the venue of the exhibition. Live tilapia and sea bass (kaalanchi) were brought from the farms from cages in the Kochi backwaters near Kadakkudy by farmers such as T.V. Sreekumar, who said that the demand was overwhelming. The exhibition also featured the first sales of pokkali rice and rice products under the Jaiva Pokkali brand, which has been brought out by a farmer producer company supported by the Ernakulam District Krishi Vigyan Kendra and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.