CMFRI to train 5,000 fishers in open sea cage farming

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has launched a major project for training fishers in open sea cage farming. CMFRI has already commenced the work to establish a breed of marine fish suitable for cage farming and has started training fishers in Kerala. The project aims to train 5,000 fishers in open sea cage farming in the next 3 years.

During the training programme, about 60 fishers from Ernakulam, Thrissur, and Ernakulam districts have already registered with the Kerala Fishermen's Welfare Fund Board and are attending the training. The CMFRI will provide training to 1,000 fishers in Kerala.

"The cage fish farming technology has proved 70 times more productive than the normal fish farming methods. Conventional pond culture of marine fish produces an average 9.5 kg/m³ (5000 kg per hectare) whereas cage farming offers a production of 25 kg/m³," said CMFRI Director, Prof. R.G. Shankar.

Referring to the scarcity of fish seed, he said CMFRI has already commenced the work to establish a breed of marine fish suitable for cage farming. A group of 80 fishers from Ernakulam and Thrissur districts have already registered with the Kerala Fishermen's Welfare Fund Board and are attending the training. CMFRI will provide training to 1,000 fishers in Kerala.

"The cage fish farming will get a major boost once the National Marine Policy is implemented," she said.