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'Need integrated approach for food security'

Kochi: An integrated and holistic approach was required for developing proper technologies to ensure the food and nutritional security of the people in the country, eminent biologist Dr Manju Sharma said on Tuesday. "Malnutrition is still a grave issue in India. Every year 2.1 million children die of malnutrition in the country", she said here, citing a data of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Sharma, a former secretary of Department of Biotechnology, urged the scientists and professionals to take up challenging tasks for combating malnutrition.

She stressed the need for launching different types of missions, along with international collaborations and interaction with social scientists as well, to address the food and nutritional issues in the country. She was speaking after inaugurating a 21-day Winter School being launched by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) to train young researchers on latest trends in developing natural products from the sea against various diseases.