

CMFRI Winter School from tomorrow

To tap pharmaceutical prospects of marine organisms

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) is set to open a 21-day Winter School from Tuesday to train young researchers on the latest technologies in the area of marine organisms for the development of therapeutic agents.

Organised by the Marine Biotechnology division of the CMFRI, the Winter School on 'recent advances in bio-active compounds from marine organisms' will be attended by 25 researchers and officials from various institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and universities from across the country, said a press release here.

Training will be provided to budding researchers on various aspects for developing medicines and nutraceuticals from sea that include isolation and characterisation of natural products of pharmaceutical importance from marine organisms such as seaweeds, molluscs, sponges, coelenterates, etc.

Manju Sharma to open school

Manju Sharma, eminent biotechnologist and former secretary of the Department of Biotechnology, will inaugurate the Winter School at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Renowned scientists and experts in the area of marine natural product chemistry from across the globe will lead the technical sessions at the Winter School.

CMFRI Director A. Gopalakrishnan said that there was a growing demand for new bio-active compounds of marine natural origin in pharmaceutical field.

The CMFRI is the pioneering marine research institute to work in the frontier area of marine bio-prospecting molecule discovery, marine food product technology and development of high-value nutraceutical products, the press release added.