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ABSTRACTS

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Impact of Chinese engines in the marine fishing sector of Kerala

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Multiday fishing by the mechanized units and use of high speed engines with high fuel consumption increased the cost of fishing operations in the state of Kerala. Chinese engines were introduced in the mechanized fishing sector of Kerala in the year 2007, replacing indigenous engines. The Chinese engines provide towing speed of 4-5 kn. The capacities of these engines vary from 300 to 440 hp and they are mainly used by the trawlers and ring seiners operating in the state. The impact of Chinese engines in the marine fishing sector of Kerala was analyzed by collecting data from the trawlers operating in Munambam and Beypore harbours for the year 2011-12. The economic performance of these fishing units and impact of the introduced engines on the marine fishing sector were analyzed with respect to general particulars, engine details, modifications / replacements done for the introduced engines, operating expenses and revenues, reasons for conversion to Chinese engines and the issues / concerns in replacement of engines. The average fuel consumption per trip was 2,740 litres and fuel cost accounted 52% of the total operating cost. The average return was Rs. 3.78 lakh and operating ratio was 0.65. Higher catch, reduction in duration of fishing days and high cruise speed were the major reasons for conversion into Chinese engines.

Keywords: Chinese engines, impact analysis, trawlers, ring seiners, Kerala