

**BREAKING | TABOO**

■ **CMFRI holds experience-sharing meet**

# 1st fisherwoman shares the thrill

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
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Adventurous as well as inspiring life sketches of Rekha Karthikeyan, the first fisherwoman of India, dominated the experience-sharing meet of women farmers and entrepreneurs in fisheries sector organised by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on Monday.

Thrilling anecdotes about her battle against giant waves and taboos existed in the society in connection with Rekha's venturing into the sea for a livelihood helped the audience at the CMFRI understand the real meaning of women empowerment.



**Rekha Karthikeyan**

The meet was organised in the wake of the national women farmer's day to share experiences of women employees and entrepreneurs in a slew of areas such as fishing, cage fish farming, bivalve farming, ornamental fish

farming, fish fertilizer, dried fish, fish trade, integrated farming, etc.

Rekha Karthikeyan, who was recognised by the CMFRI as the first fisherwoman in the country last year, shared her sufferings and the difficulties she faced

during her early phases of her career in fishing, with the audience. According to Rekha, women can succeed in all the fields like men if they have willpower and patience. She goes into the sea for around 50 km for fishing in a fibre boat with her husband, and is also confident that anything that a man can do using a fibre boat can be performed by her in the sea.

Smija T.M., a cage fish farmer in Periyar said even though she suffered huge loss due to the recent floods, she was in no way to avoid cage fish farming. Around 20 women shared their respective experiences with the audience