

CMFRI to Join Hands with Maharaja's for Joint Research, Awareness Campaigns



CMFRI Director Dr A Gopalakrishnan and Maharaja's College Principal Dr K N Krishnakumar exchanging the document after signing the MoU

Kochi: In a move to strengthen research networks in marine biodiversity and allied areas, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has inked a pact with Maharaja's College to carry out collaborative research programmes and to popularise scientific technologies among the public. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by CMFRI Director Dr A Gopalakrishnan and Maharaja's College Principal Dr K N Krishnakumar.

The linkage is aimed at boosting research works related to marine fisheries, marine biotechnology, marine biodiversity and mariculture along with various awareness programmes.

According to the MoU, the students of Maharaja's can undergo quality postgraduate research and

training in cutting edge areas enjoying the research facilities of the CMFRI. "Both the institutes will also join hands to conduct a series of awareness campaigns in connection with conservation of marine ecology and promotion of scientific temper among the public. Collaborative attempts will be made to popularise various scientific technologies among the coastal communities. The awareness programmes will include the promotion of Foldscope, a portable microscope made of paper in cheaper cost, and campaigns against plastic pollution", said Dr A Gopalakrishnan, Director of CMFRI.

The CMFRI and the Botany department of the Maharaja's College has already launched joint awareness campaign on harmful algal blooms in the Arabian Sea.

Tamil Nadu to Formulate New Brackishwater Aquaculture Policy

K. K. Vijayan, Director, CIBA, told Express that Tamil Nadu has huge Potential and was a Leader in Brackishwater Aquaculture in the past



Eminent Agriculture scientist Dr M S Swaminathan shares a moment with Minister of Fisheries D Jayakumar during the World Brackishwater Aquaculture Conference in Chennai recently.

Chennai: The State government recently indicated that it would be bringing out a brackish water aquaculture policy and was in the process of identifying the potential areas, where aquaculture can be promoted in a big way. The task of area mapping has been entrusted to the Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA).

Mr K. Gopal, principal secretary to the Department

of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries, told Express, on the sidelines of a farmers' conclave organised as part of the World Brackishwater Aquaculture Conference, that rough estimates suggest there are about 50,000 hectares in the State where aquaculture can be taken up.

"However, a scientific study has to be carried out to arrive at the exact number. We have asked CIBA to conduct the micro-

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There are about 3.9 million hectares of estuary, and 3.5 million hectares of brackish waters available in India. In addition, 1.2 million hectares of coastal areas and 8.5 million hectares of salt affected areas are available, which are potential areas for aquaculture. Currently, only 1.94 million hectares are under culture, of which 1.67 million hectares are in shrimp farming alone. Out of total \$ 900 million global turnover in imports and exports, India's share is only \$1.7 million.
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