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Call to focus on marine environmental impact study

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Marine scientists should focus on environmental impact assessment of marine ecosystem while developmental activities are increasingly taking place on the coastal areas, said D. Babu Paul, former additional chief secretary.

He was speaking at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) after felicitating the scientists and technical staff of the institute who won the prestigious national awards instituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

“Developments such as Vizhinjam port are strongly recommended. However, marine resources should be preserved. CMFRI should take a key role in studying the impacts of such developmental works on marine environment,” he said.

Mr. Paul said cost-effective technologies were required in fishing sector. Touching upon contamination in fish, he said safe and scientific mechanism should be developed to preserve fishes from deterioration. “Deep sea fishers need to keep their catch fresh and safe. Hence, a scientific and safe method is yet to be explored to avoid the harmful practice of applying formalin on fishes,” he added.

Senior scientist Kajal Chakraborty who won Rafi Ahmed Kidwai award for outstanding research in agricultural sciences; Eldho Varghese who bagged Lal Bahadur Shastri Young Scientist award; technical assistant Anusree V. Nair who received Jawaharlal Nehru award for outstanding doctoral thesis, and assistant chief technical officer E. K. Uma who helped CMFRI win the Rajarshi Tandon award for the best implementation of official language (Hindi) were felicitated.