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Minister advocates seaweed farming

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Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Krishna Raj has urged marine scientists to promote seaweed farming on account of its industrial potential. The Minister was interacting with the scientists of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) here on Tuesday, said a release issued here.

"Seaweed cultivation will greatly be beneficial to the development of various nutraceutical products, medicines and cosmetic products. Promotion of seaweed farming will also help increase the income of fishermen," she said.

Marine scientists should intensify research to boost seaweed cultivation in Indian waters, she said.

The Minister appreciated CMFRI's efforts to develop nutraceutical products to counter diabetes, arthritis and some other conditions.

"Village-level campaigns are required to create awareness among the fishermen and farmers about the prospects of entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector. Women empowerment could be made possible by encouraging them take up entrepreneurial initiatives," she said.

Ms. Raj visited the National Marine Biodiversity Museum and the research laboratories at the CMFRI.

K.K. Joshi, Head of the Marine Biodiversity Division; T.V. Sathianandan, Head of the Fishery Resources Assessment Division; and Shyam S. Salim, Principal Scientist, spoke.