



THE TIMES OF INDIA

13 August 2021

Self-help group earns profit from cage farming

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: A self-help group named 'Puzhayoram' in Maradu has recorded a yield of 600kg of pearl spots (Karimeen) from a 4x4m square-sized cage fish installed in Maradu-Nettoor backwaters. The harvested fish was sold out on the spot itself and the scheduled caste (SC) families in the region reaped a profit of Rs 2,73,000 from the 10-month long farming that started in October last year by stocking 2,000 seeds of pearl spot.

"The fish attained a growth rate of average 380g with 95% of survival rate and the fish was sold out for Rs 450 per kg," said K Madhu, principal scientist of Cen-



The self-help group in Maradu has recorded a yield of 600kg of pearl spots

tral marine fisheries research institute (CMFRI) who coordinated with farmers.

'Puzhayoram' is a group of fish farmers from the SC community in Ernakulam who were struggling to make a livelihood in this Covid pandemic.

The cage farming was part of a special programme

of the scheduled caste sub-plan (SCSP) of CMFRI for the SC community and the harvest was inaugurated by Maradu municipality vice-chairperson Reshmi Sanil.

As part of the programme, CMFRI had provided the group with cage, seeds, feed for the entire farming period and other ancillary facilities free of cost and the researchers from the institute guided the farmers during all phases of the farming.

"With no income and unemployment, the pandemic and following lockdown had a cascading effect on the lives of the SC families in the region. However, the cage farming venture has helped them sustain their livelihood to a certain extent," said Madhu.