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Lakshadweep to launch largescale seaweed farming for high-end use

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AFTER initiating steps to improve fish export and promote eco-tourism projects, the Lakshadweep administration has identified seaweed farming as the next potential sector for employment generation. A massive demonstration farming of seaweed was launched in nine inhabited islands of Lakshadweep with the technical support of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

The initiative is based on a CMFRI study that revealed an immense potential for the produc-

tion of quality seaweeds in the serene and pollution-free lagoons of Lakshadweep for high-end utilisation in the production of pharmaceutical products, food, and nutraceuticals. The administration has started farming species like indigenous red algae, *Gracilaria edulis*, and *Acanthopora spicifera* in nearly 2,500 bamboo rafts involving 10 women self-help groups.

"Lakshadweep is known for its unique tuna fisheries and reef fishes. Now, the island is set to grow into a hub of seaweed farming in the country," said CMFRI scientist K Mohammed Koya.



Lakshadweep is known for its unique tuna fisheries, beautiful corals, and reef fishes. Now, the island is set to grow into a hub of seaweed farming in the country

Mohammed Koya,
CMFRI scientist