

Centre eyes developing a sustainable seaweed economy: Fisheries Secretary

Fisheries Secretary Jatindra Nath Swain has said that the Union Government is looking forward to develop a sustainable economy through the cultivation of highly potential seaweed.

He said that at a time when climate change is becoming a major threat to human life, seaweed cultivation will help in mitigating the global crisis, boosting the economy and also mitigating the impact of climate crisis.

He was speaking at an interactive meeting with scientists of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

“An additional livelihood option, seaweed farming will play a major role in the socio-economic upliftment of traditional fishermen during this difficult time”, said the secretary.

Seaweed Seedbank

He asked CMFRI to set up a seed bank of seaweed to popularize this practice among the coastal region.

“Marine scientists should come up with capacity development methods to scale up seaweed cultivation on a large scale”, he said, adding that the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMSY) has a special focus on promotion of seaweed cultivation. Has been emphasized.

He was in Kerala to understand the issues and challenges faced by the sector after taking over the ministry four months ago. Besides the Kochi headquarters, CMFRI scientists from various regional research centers across the country also participated in the meeting.



Doubling seafood exports

The Fisheries Secretary said that India is looking at doubling seafood exports in the next five years. Technological development is important in this regard, especially for sectors such as seed production and other hatchery infrastructure for diverse marine farming activities.

Swain said that the government supports cage fish farming, which will help traditional fishermen to double their income and appreciated the efforts of CMFRI to promote this practice in the coastal states.

Marine animal husbandry

Marine Animal Husbandry Initiative, a practice of depositing seeds in the sea, should be strengthened by expanding it to more areas as the exercise by CMFRI proved to be a major success in maintaining a sustainable stock of species in the Palk Bay for the past few years. Is. their protection.

Underlining his concern over resource depletion and ecosystem degradation, he urged scientists to focus on ways to promote responsible fishing and adopt appropriate mechanisms to improve sustainable fishing.