

Centre eyes developing a sustainable seaweed economy: Fisheries Secretary

The Central government is looking ahead to establishing a sustainable economy through the highly lucrative cultivation of seaweed, Jatindra Nath Swain, Fisheries Secretary, has said.

In a time where climate change is increasingly becoming an imminent risk to human health and the environment, growing seaweed could help to ease the burden of global warming increase the economic output and help reduce the impact of climate change also, he said.

He spoke during an interactive conference with researchers from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

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

Seaweed Seedbank

He requested the CMFRI to establish the seedbank of seaweeds in order to spread the practice throughout the coastal regions.

“Marine scientists should come up with ways for capacity development to enhance seaweed cultivation on large-scale” said the scientist and added that Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sanghya Yojana (PMMSY) includes a specific emphasis on encouraging seaweed cultivation.



The CMFRI chief was visiting Kerala to gain an understanding of the issues and difficulties confronted by the sector since the transfer of the portfolio months ago. Alongside those from their headquarters in Kochi central office CMFRI experts from regional research centers across the country were also present at the conference.

Doubling the export of seafood

The Fisheries Secretary said that India is looking to double its exports of seafood over the coming five years. The development of technology is essential to this end, specifically in areas like the production of seeds as well as other hatchery infrastructures to support diversified mariculture.

The government is in favor of cage fish farming that could aid traditional fishermen in doubling their earnings, Swain said and lauded the efforts of CMFRI to provide a huge boost to this practice throughout the coast States.

Sea ranching

Sea ranching programs that involve the stocking of seeds in the ocean is a good idea to strengthen it by expanding it to larger areas. The practice of CMFRI has been a huge success within the Palk Bay over the last few years, ensuring the sustainability of the species and their conservation.

In announcing his concern over environmental degradation and resource depletion He urged scientists to think of methods to encourage responsible fishing practices and adopt suitable mechanisms to enhance sustainable fishing.