

CMFRI adopts Harijan village

By Our Staff Reporter

About 110 Harijan farm families in the Valappu village of Vypeen Island, about 10 km off Cochin, were adopted by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on Tuesday for the transfer of technology under the 'lab-to-land' programme of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during its golden jubilee year.

The CMFRI is the first institute in the country to initiate the programme and adopt the backward communities for improving the income and employment opportunities.

The 'lab-to-land' programme aims at transferring technologies developed by the various research in-

stitutes and agricultural universities to about 50,000 families belonging to the marginal and small farmers and landless labour in the country.

Inaugurating the programme, under which prawn culture technology will be transferred, Dr M. S. Swaminathan, director-general, said that the major aim of the programme was to transfer the latest techniques to the farmers.

Care was taken to select technologies which needed low inputs and which could be learnt and practised by the farming community, he added.

Dr Swaminathan pointed out that so far the prawns were collected from the sea, but today the prawn seed were sown into the farms, as in the case of paddy, wheat etc.

Presiding over the function, Mr Philipose Thomas, District Collector, emphasised the need for taking up integrated rural development programmes where farmers could cultivate crops, rear fish and prawns and also have a small poultry in the same land area.

Welcoming the participants, Dr E. G. Silas, director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, said that the CMFRI which had recently developed the technologies for coastal aquaculture had launched a number of programmes through which the technical inputs were provided to the selected farming families and communities to take up culture of marine organisms.

Mr P. K. Skandan, vice-president of the Harijan Society, welcomed the guests. Dr V. Balakrishnan, officer-in-charge of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra of CMFRI, proposed a vote of thanks.