

## **CMFRI's Effort Helps Boost Clam Production in Vembanad Lake**

CMFRI's initiative of relaying child clams in varied websites in the Vembanad lake facilitated growing the clam production which in flip helped fishermen to reap round 10 tonnes of clam per day from two areas of the lake.

As a part of this initiative underneath a challenge on 'Rejuvenation of Clam' taken up by the Fisheries Department of Kerala utilizing the District Panchayat Scheme, roughly 200 tonnes of child black clams had been re-laid in Keecheri and Chakkathukadu areas of the Vembanad lake underneath the technical steering of CMFRI.

According to the CMFRI scientists, the initiative is predicted to carry out a production of practically 1500 tonnes from these websites.

The lengthy undisturbed interval of practically two years has facilitated not less than two spawnings adopted by spat settlement in a brand new habitat, resulting in the institution of a brand new black clam mattress in the Lake and thus enhancing the clam useful resource, mentioned A.P. Laxmilatha, Head of Molluscan Fisheries Division (MFD) of CMFRI.

Relaying of child clams led to the institution of the useful resource in these areas spreading round 20 hectares and helped fishers harvest grownup clams with good development price, she added.

"The production of black clams declined from a peak of 75,592 tonnes in 2006 to 42,036 tonnes in 2019 in Vembanad lake. Low production owing to multiple reasons and the pandemic have had cascading effect on clam fishers along the lake", mentioned Laxmilatha.

Reaping the advantages, fishermen underneath the Keecheri Ulnadan Matsya Thozhilali Sahakarana Sangham gather the clams utilizing canoes from re-laid areas and promote clam meat for 150 per kg in the closest market. Each canoe collects 450 kg of clams per day.

R.Vidya, scientist of the MFD, CMFRI who led the challenge mentioned that aside from growing the production of clams in the world, the relaying helped clam fishers to maintain their livelihood in the course of the powerful pandemic interval.

"Nearly 5,000 fishermen are involved in black clam fishery in the Vembanad lake", she mentioned, including that the clam rejuvenation programme enormously helped growing the production in the backwaters that offered a lifeline to the fishers relying on clam sources in the world.