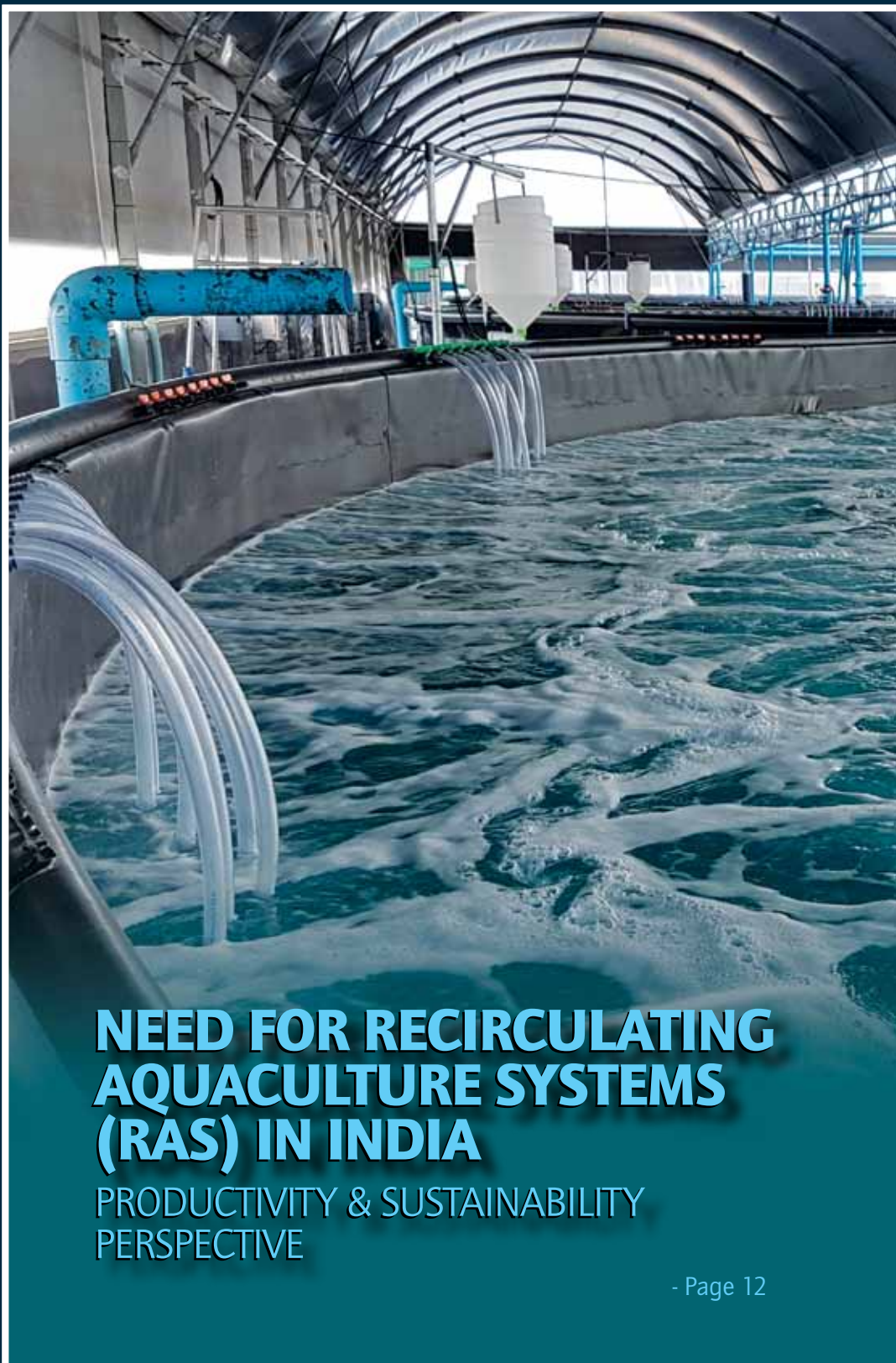


Aquaculture Spectrum™

The Indian Aquaculture Magazine



NEED FOR RECIRCULATING AQUACULTURE SYSTEMS (RAS) IN INDIA

PRODUCTIVITY & SUSTAINABILITY PERSPECTIVE

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CMFRI'S EFFORTS HELPS TO BOOST CLAM PRODUCTION IN VEMBANAD LAKE

The efforts made by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) to rejuvenate the black clam (*Villorita cyprinoides*) resource in the Vembanad Lake has paid off as local fisherfolk have started to harvest good catches from the region. Aimed at boosting the clam fishery and enhancing livelihood option for the clam fishers in the region, the Molluscan Fisheries Division of CMFRI re-laid (stocked) baby clams after identifying suitable areas on the northern side of the Thanneermukkam Barrage. As part of this initiative, which was under a project on 'Rejuvenation of Clam' taken up by the Fisheries Department of Kerala using the District Panchayat Scheme, approximately 200 tonnes of baby black clams were re-laid in Keecheri and Chakkathukadu areas of the Vembanad Lake under the technical guidance of CMFRI.

According to the CMFRI scientists, the initiative is expected to bring out a production of nearly 1500 tonnes from these sites which is more than 7-fold of the re-laid baby clams. The long undisturbed period of nearly two years has facilitated at least two spawning followed by spat settlement leading to the establishment of a new black clam bed in the Lake and thus enhancing the clam resource. Dr. P Laxmilatha, Head of Molluscan Fisheries Division (MFD) of CMFRI informed that relaying of baby clams had led to the



establishment of the resource in these areas spreading around 20 hectares and helped fishers harvest adult clams with good growth rate. Reaping the benefits out of this, fishermen under the Keecheri Ulnadan Matsya Thozhilali Sahakarana Sangham collect the clam using canoes from re-laid locations and they sell clam meat for 150 per kg in the nearest market. Each canoe collects 450 kg of clams per day. The production of black clams declined from a peak of 75,592 t in 2006 to 42036 tonnes in 2019 in Vembanad Lake.

Fishermen from Keecheri harvesting black clams from Vembanad

