



Women reap bumper harvest of mussels

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Women farmers in Moothakunnam and Chettuva have reaped a bumper harvest of mussels this week. The women belonging to the Kudumbashree units reaped a total yield of 1.5 tonnes of mussels from Moothakunnam and 350kg from Chettuva.

They started farming in December last year in mussel farms (racks) made of bamboo poles with technical support from the Central Marine Fisheries Resource Institute (CMFRI). After the harvest, the produce underwent depuration, a scientific process to expel contaminants from gills and guts of the mussels by providing them with purified seawater before they are used for consumption.

Depurated mussel meat from the farms are available for sale in CMFRI. It is also available at Agriculture Technology Information Centre from 10am to 4pm on all working days till the stock ends. The price for a 250g packet



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is Rs 200. CMFRI has been doing experiment farming with fish farmers using various innovative technologies. Its integrated multi-trophic aquaculture proved successful last year at Moothakunnam after they integrated farming, combined with cage fish and seaweed farming using a sustainable cage fish farming model.