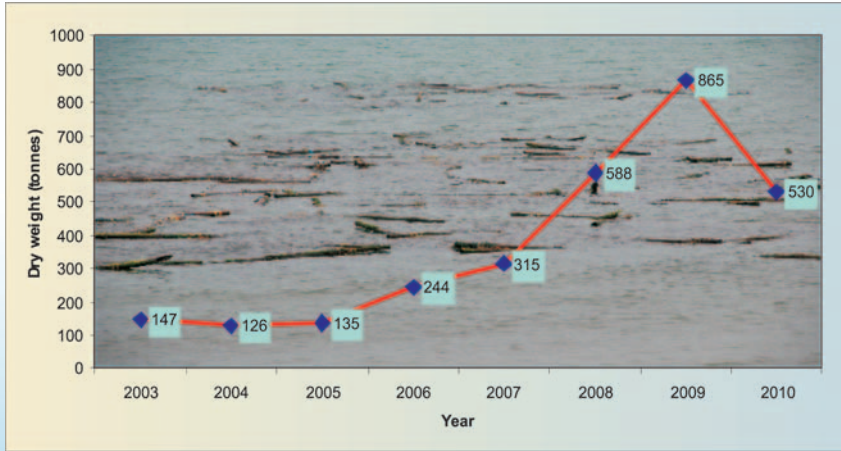


Kappaphycus alvarezii -Seaweed production catching up in Tamilnadu coast



Seaweed (*Kappaphycus alvarezii*) production in Tamil Nadu (2003-2010)

Commercial cultivation of *Kappaphycus alvarezii* was started in 2003 along the Tamil Nadu coast. At present, *K. alvarezii* production is carried

out in five coastal districts of Tamil Nadu namely Kanyakumari, Thoothukudi, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur and Pudukottai. It is evident from the figure that from 2003 to 2009, *K. alvarezii* production has shown a steady increase. During the year 2009, the production was maximum (865 tonnes) in comparison to other years. A decline in production was noted in 2010, which may be due to heavy storm and high temperature. At present, around 1500 families are dependent only on *K. alvarezii* farming for their livelihood.

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