

## DDG (Agrl. Extension) visited KVK and cage culture sites

Dr. K. D. Kokate, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Ernakulam) of CMFRI on 17 August 2012 to monitor the progress made and to interact with farmers. He assessed the progress made at the KVK's new campus at Thevara where animal husbandry and horticultural demonstrations were set up. He appreciated the functioning of the rabbit breeding unit and suggested to supply good quality kits to farmers of other districts also through concerned KVKs and also the KVK's effort in introducing maize for the first time in Kerala. He has also visited the Narakkal campus of the KVK where fisheries activities are progressing. He suggested to strengthen the seed production activities of Pearl spot (Karimeen), the state fish of Kerala.



Dr. K. D. Kokate, DDG (Agrl. Extension) catching fish from the cage

More brood stock ponds need to be created and hatchery area to be increased. Considering the huge demand of Pearlsport fish in Kerala, he suggested the KVK to emerge as Centre of Excellence in pearlsport culture and to periodically organize related trainings in addition to supply of seeds. Farmers groups may be formed and capacity

building may be done by the KVK followed by arranging credit facilities through banks to initiate cage culture in public water bodies in a large scale. He stressed the importance of documenting various interventions of the KVK and to publish in appropriate journals.