

## Ernakulam KVK of ICAR-CMFRI Demonstrated Profitable Cage Fish Farming for Landless Farmers

Kochi, Kerala. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ernakulam of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi in collaboration with Palliakkal Service Cooperative society, Ezhikkara in Kerala's Ernakulam district demonstrated a lucrative model of fish farming for landless farmers. The cage fish farming was done in Veerampuzha backwaters, a public water body in the district. The KVK initially conducted an entrepreneurship development programme for the farmers and subsequently conducted a series of follow-up trainings and provided constant technology backstopping while the Society provided low interest loan to meet the farming cost.

During this year, 10 metric tonnes of fish worth ₹ 50 lakh were produced by group of 30 landless young farmers. Giant Trevally, Asian Seabass, Pearlsport, Red Snapper and Tilapia were the species farmed. This is the consecutive 4<sup>th</sup> year, KVK-society partnership is proving this cage fish farming model a success.

Marketing being the major issue faced by farmers, the Society with guidance of KVK organized a fish tourism mela during this Christmas season where live, fresh,



ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat fish varieties were made available to consumers. Wide coverage in various media attracted large number of consumers and the 4-day mela could market 2.3 MT fish worth ₹ 12 lakhs. The mela helped the fish farmers to reach out the consumers directly without the intervention of middle men and cut the transportation expenses. Thereby the farmers could realize 20 % additional profit.