

ICAR-CMFRI EXTENDS TECHNICAL GUIDANCE TO LAUNCH INDIA'S FIRST OPEN SEA CAGE FARM UNDER MARICULTURE POLICY

In a first in the country, an open sea cage farm has been launched in Goa under the Mariculture Policy with the technical guidance of the Karwar Regional Station of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

Realising the huge potential in mariculture, Government of Goa became the first state in India to notify the Mariculture Policy for open sea cage farming in territorial waters. Following this, ICAR-CMFRI extended technical support to Mr. Sheldon Fernandes, a Candolim resident of North Goa belonging to fishermen community to become the first entrepreneur in India with an open sea cage farm under the Policy. The cage culture farm at Candolim, North Goa was inaugurated by Dr. Sharmila Monteiro, Director, Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Goa on 28th October 2022.

Mr. Sheldon Fernandes was sanctioned five cages under centrally sponsored scheme of Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Goa. Two cages were also provided under All India Network Project on Mariculture of ICAR-CMFRI, Karwar for demonstration of Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture. Hatchery produced seeds of Asian seabass, (*Lates calcarifer*) and silver pompano (*Trachinotus blochii*) were stocked in these cages.

The technical guidance for the entire period of cage culture will be extended by ICAR-CMFRI, Karwar. Dr. Suresh Babu P. P., Scientist in Charge and Dr. Anuraj A, Scientist of Karwar Regional Station of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) were also present during the launch of the initiative.

