



13 March 2023

India's carbon footprint from marine fisheries lower than global level: Study

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

INDIA'S carbon emissions from the marine mechanised fisheries sector are 16.3% lower than the global average, according to a landmark study by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

According to the study, India's marine fisheries emit only 1.32 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of fish produced, which is much lower than the global average of over 2 tonnes of carbon emissions per tonne of fish. The study assessed the greenhouse gas emissions from all activities in the sector, from pre-harvesting to marketing, and converted them into CO₂ equivalent. The harvest phase, which involves active fishing, accounted for over 90% of the fuel used in the sector, resulting in annual CO₂ emissions of 4,934 million kg.



"The harvest phase, which involves active fishing, accounted for over 90% of the fuel used in the sector, resulting in annual CO₂ emissions of 4,934 million kg," Dr A Gopalakrishnan, director of the ICAR-CMFRI said.

The study was conducted from selected fishing centres of all the maritime states of the country, dividing the fishing-related activities into three phases—pre-harvesting, harvesting, and post-harvesting, he said, in a release.

The NICRA project is aimed at studying the impact of climate change on agriculture including crops, livestock, horticulture, and fisheries and to develop and promote climate resilient technologies thereby addressing vulnerable areas of the country. Five research institutes under the ICAR including the CMFRI and two state agri-

culture universities are working on the fisheries component under this project.

While presenting the progress of the research works being carried out by the CMFRI, Dr Grinson George, principal scientist said the increased intensity of cyclones, sea level rise, and warming of the Indian Ocean have led to changes in marine ecosystems among many others, causing depletion of some fishes and the emergence of some other varieties.

In its efforts to assess the climate change risks in the coastal region, CMFRI identified cyclone proneness, flood proneness, shoreline changes, heat waves, and sea level rise as the major hazards that make coastal lives in peril. Works on a coastal climate risk atlas that marks areas of risks including hazards and vulnerabilities in all coastal districts in India are in progress.