

Marine fisheries leave lower carbon footprint

KOCHI: In a landmark research in assessing the carbon footprint in India's marine fisheries, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has estimated that the sector emits 1.32 tonne of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) to produce one tonne of fish, much lower than the global figure of more than 2 tonne of carbon emission per tonne of fish.

This is the assessment of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from total activities in the sector, from pre-harvesting to marketing, by converting it into CO₂ equivalent, a release said on Sunday.

The data was presented at a review meeting of the fisheries component of the network

research project National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

The CMFRI found that the harvest phase (active fishing) in the country used more than 90% of the fuel used in the sector with annual CO₂ emissions from this phase being 4,934 million kg.

"The country's carbon emissions from the marine mechanised fisheries sector is 16.3% lower than the global level", 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 added.