

India's CMFRI Proposes Mariculture Parks to Boost Blue Economy



In an innovative approach to bolster the blue economy and meet the rising demand for food and nutrition, India's ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has proposed the establishment of mariculture parks. These parks are set to be established in various coastal districts across the country, offering a sustainable solution to seafood supply-chain challenges.

Mariculture Parks: A New Wave in Sea Farming

According to the proposal by CMFRI, these mariculture parks would primarily focus on marine cage fish farming and seaweed farming. The institute has already identified suitable sites for these activities along Indian territorial waters, aiming to streamline the currently scattered sea farming efforts into a more structured and efficient system. The emphasis is not just on quantity, but also on the quality and sustainability of the produce.

Embracing Indigenous Technologies and Countering Climate Crisis

The proposal presented by CMFRI also advocates for the integration of indigenous mariculture technologies. This move is seen as a vital step towards sustaining local ecosystems and promoting the use of indigenous knowledge in contemporary practices. Moreover, the proposal highlights the importance of proactively addressing the challenges posed by the climate crisis. Rising sea levels and changing ocean temperatures can have significant impacts on mariculture, making it essential to devise resilient strategies.

Legislation and Ocean Accounting: The Road to a Sustainable Blue Economy

While the establishment of mariculture technology parks is a significant step towards a sustainable blue economy, the CMFRI emphasizes that it is just the tip of the iceberg. To truly harness the potential of the oceans, improvements in legislation and ocean accounting are needed. This includes policies that protect marine biodiversity, promote sustainable practices, and ensure equitable distribution of marine resources. Furthermore, ocean accounting, a systematic approach to measuring and valifying the ocean's assets, is crucial for understanding the true socio-economic value of the oceans and guiding responsible stewardship.

Conclusion: A Sea of Opportunities

The proposal for mariculture parks by the CMFRI presents a sea of opportunities for India to meet its food and nutrition demands, boost its blue economy, and contribute to global sustainability goals. If implemented correctly, it could serve as a model for other coastal nations around the world.