

NITI Aayog V-C bats for AI to counter challenges in marine fisheries

Our Bureau

Kochi

NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery has underscored the importance of frontier technologies like artificial intelligence in tackling the challenges in the marine fisheries sector and said that technology is a vital growth driver. It is crucial to understand the dynamics of demand for prioritising production strategies, Bery said, adding that demand is the driving force of the economy. “Given that demand for fish is on the rise, innovative strategies to enhance productivity are required”, he said.

He was inaugurating a high-level national workshop jointly organised by NITI Aayog, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, and Kerala Fisheries Department at CMFRI on Friday. The workshop was held to discuss relevant issues in marine fisheries,



Suman Bery,
Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog

develop tailored strategies and forge partnerships between the coastal States to address the challenges and explore the prospects.

Flagging concern on the rising trend of disparity between the States, NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand said the growth of fisheries is highly imbalanced. He said it is much higher in Andhra Pradesh compared to most other maritime States. Fish production in Andhra Pradesh is 50 per cent higher than the total

production of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka combined. This has to be addressed with greater attention, he said.

VALUE ADDITION

The growth of demand for fish doubled in decade ending 2022, compared to the previous decade ending 2012. Fisheries has a promising export share in agriculture and food commodities, Chand said.

On measures to boost seafood exports, he proposed enhancing value addition and cutting-edge processing innovations. Major chunks of India's unprocessed seafood including shrimps and tunas are exported mainly to Vietnam, Thailand and Tunisia for onward re-export from there after substantial value addition. By setting up of state-of-the-art processing facilities, India can harness the unexplored value addition potential of seafood for earning greater foreign exchange”, he said.