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# 'Frontier technologies, a way to enhance fisheries sector'

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**Kochi:** In keeping with the demand for fish, which is on the rise, innovative strategies to enhance productivity are required, as demand is the driving force of an economy, said NITI Aayog vice chairman Suman Bery in Kochi on Friday.

Speaking after inaugurating a high-level national workshop jointly organized by NITI Aayog, central marine fisheries research institute (CMFRI) and Kerala fisheries department, he emphasized on the role of technology as a vital growth driver. The application of frontier technologies like artificial intelligence could help address the challenges in the marine fisheries sector, he added.

Flagging concern on the increasing trend of disparity between the states, NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand said the growth of fisheries is highly imbalanced while it is much higher in Andhra Pradesh compared to most other maritime states. "Fish production in Andhra Pradesh is 50% higher than the total production of five states, namely Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, TN, and Karnataka combined," he said, adding that this must be addressed with greater attention.

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

On measures to boost seafood export, Chand proposed enhancing value addition and cutting-edge processing innovations in the sector. "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 state-of-the-art processing facilities, India can harness the unexplored value-addition potential of seafood for earning greater foreign exchange," he said.