

## Indigenous traditional knowledge should be given proper emphasis in IP system: CMFRI

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The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has called for the Intellectual Property (IP) system to be strengthened to fully recognise indigenous people's ownership of their traditional knowledge.

The premier institute underscored the role of intellectual property on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 concerning genetic resources and their impact on developing countries.

It also highlighted the risks

of biopiracy, where genetic resources are exploited without consent or benefit-sharing agreements, leading to the marginalisation of indigenous communities and exacerbating inequalities.

Dr Kavitha Chalakal, Assistant Professor at the Inter-University Centre for IPR Studies of the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), said developing countries, rich in biodiversity and traditional knowledge, often face challenges in benefiting from their genetic resources due to asymmetrical power dynamics and inadequate legal frameworks.