

40 YEARS
OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
IN
MARINE FISHERIES IN INDIA



**A Souvenir issued at the National Symposium on
Research and Development in Marine Fisheries
held at Mandapam Camp, 16 - 18 September 1987, to mark
the 40th Anniversary of
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
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Department of Fisheries, Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is endowed with rich and varied potential for development of marine fisheries. It has a long coastline of 1000 kilometers and a continental shelf area of about 41412 sq. km. The estimates of potential annual catch from the EEZ of Tamil Nadu vary from 4 to 8.6 lakh tonnes. The population of marine fishermen is about 4.64 lakhs, out of which about 1 lakh marine fishermen are actively engaged in the fishing profession. At present there are 2432 wooden mechanised boats and 82 FRP boats engaged in fishing off Tamil Nadu coast. In addition, 985 catamarans have been fitted with outboard motors and 802 country canoes with inboard engines. As far as non-mechanised boats are concerned there are 28,132 catamarans and 8439 country craft operating in Tamil Nadu.

As a result of effective implementation of successive Five Year Plans, the marine fish production of the state has increased five fold from 45700 tonnes in 1951-52 to 249576 tonnes in 1986-87. Tamil Nadu accounts for about 15 percent of the total marine fish production in the country. The share of Tamil Nadu in the country's export in marine products is about Rs. 68.43 crores (1986-87).

OBJECTIVES

- (i) to increase fish production through suitable upgradation of technology;
- (ii) to raise the standard of living of the fishermen by increasing their income which will help their socio-economic conditions;
- (iii) to raise the nutritional status of the consumers;
- (iv) to generate additional employment opportunities;

- (v) to increase foreign exchange earnings of the State.

FUNCTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Regarding the development of marine fisheries, attention is now concentrated on distribution of fibreglass boats, small beach-landing craft and to motorise the existing traditional craft like country boats and catamarans with inboard and outboard engines by providing subsidy.

In order to meet the needs of the fishing fleet, with the assistance of the Government of India, major fishing harbours and minor landing centres have been provided in 9 places. Similar facilities are now being developed in 4 more places. Infrastructure facilities like roads, community halls, fish auction hall, processing facilities, servicing, water supply, power etc. are being provided at 5 places. To enable the fishermen to navigate their craft to shore safely during night time and to avoid rocky obstructions in the sea, the Department has installed guide lights at important landing centres.

The Department is implementing several welfare schemes for the upliftment of fishermen community such as provision of free houses, provision of roads in fishing villages, group insurance scheme, saving-cum-relief scheme etc., and strengthening of the Fishermen Cooperatives.

The following strategies are being adopted for achieving the objectives of the Department in the VII Five Year Plan aiming at an annual marine fish production of 3.1 lakh tonnes by 1989-90.

- i) Introducing improved craft such as beach-landing craft to supplement the traditional craft in increasing fish production by providing subsidy assistance to the fishermen to procure FRP boats;

- ii) Improving the operational efficiency of traditional craft of the small-scale fishermen by providing subsidy to procure inboard/outboard motors to enable them to increase their landings and earnings;
- iii) Providing necessary infrastructure facilities such as fishing harbours, landing jetties, processing plants, auction and packing halls, etc., at all important landing centres;
- iv) Intensifying the efforts of the Fisheries Development Corporation to conduct deep sea fishing operations for effective exploitation of the EEZ;
- v) Strengthening the Fishermen Cooperative Societies to enable them to take up fishing, fish marketing and other related programmes;
- vi) Providing basic amenities to the fishermen hamlets such as housing, link roads, water-supply and other public amenities.

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