CULTURE OF SEA CUCUMBER AT ANDAMANS

Culture experiments on the holothurian *Holothuria scabra*, which supports the beche-de-mer industry of Andamans, are being taken up at a site at Aberdeen Jetty in Port Blair. The site is suitably enclosed on two sides by the jetties and two sides by sea walls. The area of the farm is 15,000 sq. m and on one side there is an entrance 20 m wide which allows navigation of fishing boats which generally enter the area for the purpose of anchoring. Depending on the tide the height of water varies between 3.5 to 1 metre in the area toward the entrance side. At the other end the bottom becomes exposed during low tide.

In January 78, 500 juvenile sea cucumbers varying in length from 65 to 160 mm were collected from the nearby areas and stocked in the farm. As the sea cucumber has the habit of burying in sand when the water level goes up there is no fear of their escaping through the entrance when the farm is filled with water during high tide. During low tide they generally come...
NEW JOINT DIRECTORS FOR THE INSTITUTE

Dr. S. V. Bapat, Scientist S-2 and Officer-in-Charge of Bombay Research Centre and Dr. P. S. B. R. James, Professor and Head of Fisheries in the Fisheries College, Mangalore, have been appointed by the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board as Joint Directors of the Institute. Dr. Bapat has taken charge at Cochin and Dr. James at Mandapam from where they will be assisting the Director mainly in the administration.

CMFRI-trained Scientists Involve in Prawn Culture

Tiger prawn, *Penaeus monodon*, was quite successfully cultured in an experimental brackishwater pond at Madras by scientists trained by Madras Research Centre of the Institute. The pond with an area of 1.14 ha is located in the intertidal waters in Adyar estuary. The pond has an average depth of 70 cm.

Juvenile tiger prawns, 20-45 mm in size, were collected from Adayar and Cooum estuaries and transported to the farm. After necessary conditioning they were stocked in the pond initially fertilized with urea and super phosphate at a rate of 100 kg/ha, at a density of 20,000 juveniles/ha. Later fertilizers were added periodically at a rate of 50 kg/ha. No feed was supplemented.

Harvesting was done at the end of 80 days and the total yield was 586.85 kg — at the rate of 514.7 kg/ha. The recovery rate was 79.8%. The crop was sold for Rs. 32,200/-. Thiru S. Victor Chandra Bose and Thiru V. Venkataraman, Assistant Directors of Madras Fisheries, were the Institute-trained scientists under whose supervision the culture experiments were carried out.

Sea Cucumber . . . .

out of the sand for feeding. No artificial feed has to be provided as the animal feeds on the decaying organic matter. At the end of July the animals were found to have grown 190-290 mm — an increase of over 10 cm in 7 months.