



CMFRI newsletter

Number 10

1979 & 1980

THE LAB - TO - LAND PROGRAMME



Mussel culture raft being moored to the culture site.

The ICAR completed 50 years of useful service to the nation in 1979 and as a major programme of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations decided to organise an Experimental Transfer of Technology Programme-the LAB-TO-LAND.

The notable feature of this

programme is the direct participation of the scientists at the ICAR research institutes and agricultural universities in the transfer of new and improved technologies aimed at increased production. The beneficiaries have rightly been identified as the small and marginal farmers and landless labourers, with

special attention to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

The CMFRI is one of the first institutes under the fold of ICAR which decided to launch the programme in all seriousness and made an early start right from January, 1979.

Dear Colleague,

The publication of the CMFRI Newsletter which was a regular feature was unduly delayed in the recent past. I am glad to inform you that we are reviving the Newsletter to keep our staff fully posted about the ongoing activities of the Institute, projected programmes and staff news.

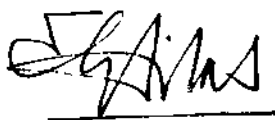
Since there has been a time lag in the issue of this Number, highlights of activities for the intervening period have been updated in this issue.

For the successful running of the Newsletter it will be very necessary that our staff working at Headquarters and subordinate establishments of the Institute take an active interest in keeping the Headquarters informed about local activities which will not only cover research highlights, but include items such as activities of the recreation club, participation in sports and games, distinctions to children of staff members, participation in extension programmes and

so on. The Officers-in-Charge will also keep the Headquarters informed about matters which should find a place in the CMFRI Newsletter.

From its inception upto the last number, Shri K.N. Krishna Kartha has been responsible for bringing out the Newsletter. We appreciate his efforts in making the CMFRI Newsletter an attractive publication of quality. Smt. Krishna Srinath who has joined the Institute at Headquarters as Extension Officer is now entrusted with the responsibility of compiling and editing the Newsletter from this issue onwards. All materials for publication in the Newsletter may be sent to her by name.

The all round co-operation from our staff is needed to successfully run the Newsletter and may I look forward to have your help and support.



E. G. SILAS
Director

Technology Package

The main theme of the Institute's programme is *coastal aquaculture* in which the Institute has made very significant advances during the last eight years. The technologies recommended to the fishermen and fish farmers, including agricultural farmers who came forward to take up aquaculture,

were intensive culture of marine prawns, polyculture of fishes and prawns mussel farming, edible oyster culture and seaweed culture. In this Programme due attention was given to develop crop-livestock-fish integrated farming practices suitable for different locations.

The Institute has selected

a total number of 312 families which include 122 Harijans at Valappu forming a Welfare Society, 30 fishermen at Elathur, 15 agricultural farmers and wage earners at Thekkumbhagam in Quilon District, 15 fishermen at Tuticorin, 20 fishermen at Mandapam, 50 fishermen at Karikattukuppam, 50 Harijans at Muttukadu near Madras and 10 fishermen at Karwar. Thus a cross section of economically backward segment of the society was adopted for providing the benefits of technology under the Lab-to-Land programme.

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Inaugurates

The Lab-to-Land Programme on prawn culture at Valappu near Cochin was inaugurated by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan FRS, Director-General of ICAR on 13 March, 1979. The programme of polyculture at Thekkumbhagam village near Quilon was launched by Shri Baby John, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Government of Kerala on 12 April, 1979. Shri G. R. Edmund, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Fisheries of Government of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the mussel culture programme at Karikattukuppam near Madras on 7 April, 1979. The Oyster culture programme at Tuticorin was inaugurated by Shri R. Shanmugham, District Collector Tirunelveli on 10 May, 1979 and the one on seaweed culture at Mandapam Camp was launched by Shri S. Subramaniam, District Collector, Ramanathapuram. The mussel farming programme at Calicut was inaugurated by Shri. K. M. Balakrishnan, District Collector, Calicut. The most recent one

taken up was mussel culture at Karwar started in November 1980.

Steady Progress

All the programmes made steady progress during the years 1979 and 1980. Several harvests of prawns and fishes were taken at Valappu and the farmers were extremely satisfied with the results. They decided to convert all the available common marshy fallow land into productive prawn culture ponds. The prawn culture technology was quite new to the farmers in Quilon district. Harvests of other products were taken by the farmers at various centres. The programme during the two years has made a good area impact in the regions of operation.

The scientists engaged in the Lab-to-Land programme

met the farmers and district authorities involved with the operation of schemes like IRDP, SFDA, DPAP, etc. at a workshop held at Cochin and Mandapam Camp during July, 1979 and made an interim assessment of the progress and constraints of the whole programme, based on which action plans for future have been developed.

At Karwar

Karwar, along the Uthara Kannada coast of Karnataka is one of the important centres for the production of green mussel, *Perna viridis*. Under the Lab-to-Land programme a project on mussel culture was initiated in November 1980 at Karwar. The fishermen at the village Binage were interested in carrying out mussel farming as an additional voca-

tion. Ten fishermen families in the village were selected and the benchmark survey on the socio-economics of the village as a whole and the selected families in particular was completed. The fishermen were given training in mussel farming including in aspects such as location and collection of seed, fabrication of raft, seeding, and suspension of ropes and maintenance of the farm. Four rafts have been fabricated and moored by the fishermen at Karwar and they are doing the work with great interest and much expectation.

Dr. M. V. Pai and his team are working closely with the fishermen in the project. Dr. P. S. Kuriakose is providing all technical support to the project based on his wide experience under the Lab-to-Land Programme at Elathur near Calicut.