

DR. P.S.B.R. JAMES, Director retires from service

Dr. P.S.B.R. James, Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin laid down the office on 28 February 1994 on attaining superannuation. A career scientist and a product of the Institute, he served the Institute in various capacities. He also served as Assistant Director General (Fisheries) at ICAR Headquarters and as Professor and Head of the Department at the University of Agricultural sciences, Mangalore. Dr. James has 217 scientific and other papers to his credit. In recognition of his contributions to marine fisheries research and development in the country, the society of Ichthyologists of India, Madras honoured him with the Dr. S.L. Hora, Gold Medal, cash award and a citation. His most significant contribution have been on ribbon fishes and silver bellies.

Dr. James was Chairman / Member of several national and State Committees on subjects like master plan for development of fisheries in Lakshadweep, utilisation of multipurpose fishing vessels, revalidation of marine fisheries potential of the EEZ, ban on export of undersized sea cucumber, ban on trawling, status of fish disease and fisheries policy in Kerala.

In the international arena he served as the National Co-ordinator for the FAO / UNDP Regional Seafarming Research, Development and Demonstration Project, as Member of the Advisory Committee to the World Bank on study of International Fisheries Research and as a member of the FAO Consultation for field identification of fishes of western Indian Ocean. He attended several international conferences, meetings and symposia and participated in Indian delegations to other countries.

As Director, CMFRI he initiated several new and novel research projects to find solutions to the current problems. With a view to enhancing coastal fish



production, he initiated and intensified seafarming and sea ranching of marine animals. Diversification of fishing and reduction of fishing pressure on shrimp were emphasised by him. Marine environmental protection, conservation and management, biodiversity preservation and protection of endangered marine animals have been stressed by him. Transfer of technology programmes on establishment of medium size shrimp hatcheries, prawn feed formulations, pearl production, oyster culture, salt pan prawn culture and seaweed culture have been given high priority by Dr. James. In his opinion, research should be field-oriented and there should be greater linkage with the end user.

Dr. P.V. Rao takes over as Acting Director

Dr. P. Vedavyasa Rao, Principal Scientist has taken over as Acting Director of the CMFRI on 11 March 1994.