MULTICROP SEA BOTTOM FARMING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED AT VIZHINIJAM

A new farming method for cultivating pearls, mussels, finfishes and other organisms in shallow sea bottom using cages has been developed by the Institute. The new designs of high density stocking cages include the cages with multiple radial pedestals known as satellite cages, cages with extra lateral pedestals and the two-in-one cage with a trap mouth for farming cum-fishing. The fabrication of the cage is easy and it is portable. The cages also act as fish attracting device and hence it is possible to increase the fish biomass in the sea.

The fishermen can exploit various marine fishes using the two-in-one trap cages. These cages also act as substrata for the settlement of pearl oysters and mussels. The cages withstand rough sea conditions and therefore sea farming could be carried out round the year. Using this technology marine farming can be taken up in all the shallow areas of the seas around India.

Training

A training programme on pearl oyster & pearl culture and mussel farming was conducted at Chettuva on 3-4 December. Twenty five farmers participated. The programme was sponsored by the Chettuva Panchayat.

Workshops

A two day Indo-Egyptian Workshop on Oceanography with exclusive focus on mariculture was organised at CMFRI Headquarters on the 8th and 9th of December. A four member Egyptian delegation headed by Dr. Hosny Ibrahim Emara, Director, National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Alexandria, Egypt participated in the workshop. Dr. M. Devaraj, Director, CMFRI