Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Joseph Modayil Assumes Charge as the Director of CMFRI

Prof. Mohan Joseph possesses a glorious academic and professional career. After completing M.Sc. in Marine Biology from Kerala University, he worked on cryptofauna of seaweeds for his Ph.D degree in Bioscience at Mandapam and obtained his doctorate degree from Mysore University. He joined as instructor in the Fisheries College, Mangalore when it was established and attained the position of Professor and Head, Department of Fisheries Resources Management. He is a dedicated scientist whose contributions in the field of community based coastal resource management and mariculture have been well recognised at both national and international level. He has served as consultant to various international organisations and had visited 15 countries on professional assignment. He has more than 90 research reports, articles, manuals, books and reviews to his credit in national as well as international journals. In addition, he has also contributed a chapter in the internationally acclaimed book, 'Tropical Mariculture' on invitation by the Academic Press, London.

Prof. Mohan Joseph is an able administrator. He is very clear and specific in his objectives and work plans. The successful organisation and execution of the meetings of the Asian Fisheries Forum in 1996 at Cochin and in 2000 at Bhubaneswar provides testimony to his administrative skills. It is because of his interest and enthusiasm bestowed during his tenure as the Honorary Secretary of the Asian Fisheries Society (Indian Branch) its head quarters was commissioned in the premises of the College of Fisheries, Mangalore. For the past four years, he has been holding additional responsibility

Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Joseph Modayil took over charge as the Director of CMFRI on 2nd September 2000. Earlier he had been serving as Professor and Head, Department of Fisheries Resources Management, College of Fisheries, University of Agricultural Sciences, Mangalore. He had been serving the University under various capacities during a span of 30 years at College of Fisheries, Mangalore since its inception.
as country coordinator for the PHF project of the Department for International Development (DFID) of the U.K.

**Dr. V. N. Pillai, Director Retires**

Dr. V. N. Pillai retired from service on superannuation in August, 2000. He served the R & D organisations of the Ministry of Defence, National Institute of Oceanography under CSIR, the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training and the Integrated Fisheries Project under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in various capacities. He was inducted into the Agricultural Research Service under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the year 1985. His contributions to the Fishery Oceanography of the SouthEastern Arabian Sea during his deputation to the erstwhile FAO/UNDP Pelagic Fishery Project are highly commendable. He had undergone training in Fisheries Oceanography in the MAFF Fishery Laboratory, Lowestoft, England. His contribution on application of remote sensing data in Marine Fisheries undertaken through collaborative programmes, with the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad and Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad were well appreciated. Dr. Pillai coordinated the scientific programmes of the largest Fisheries Oceanographic Research Vessel, SAGAR SAMPADA during the period 1985-1990. He served the CMFRI in various capacities since 1985. His vast experience through participation on research cruises undertaken by various Indian and foreign research vessels has made him one among the top fishery oceanographers in the country.

With a total of more than 80 publications to his credit both in National and International journals of repute, Dr. Pillai is a consultant in the discipline of ecology and ecosystem management in the collaborative ICLARM project "Sustainable management of coastal fish stocks in Asia" with funding from Asian Development Bank. Dr. Pillai had travelled widely around the globe. During his tenure as Director of CMFRI he has contributed much towards the research activities of the Institute.

**Research Highlights**

**Mandapam**

*Epinephelus polyhekadion* spawners maintained in indoor spawning tank (5.0 t) responded naturally and spawned for five consecutive days. The egg is of 1.2 mm diameter and larvae hatched out after 20 hours of spawning. Early embryonic development was observed under light microscope and different stages were photographed. On the 2nd day, 300 nos of healthy larvae were transferred to FRP tanks with 150 l of seawater stocked with wild collection of copepod spp and chlorella as food. Heavy mortality occurred and the larvae which survived were found actively swimming and feeding on the organisms available in the water. The larval rearing is in progress and it has reached an average size of 5.0 mm.

**Tuticorin**

A pearl producing bivalve *Placenta placenta* fishery has been revived at Tuticorin Research Centre recently. Natural pearls were collected from these animals by the local fishermen. Success was achieved in breeding and rearing of the larvae of *Placenta placenta* to spat stage in the hatchery of Tuticorin.