broodstock of pearl spot fish in cages from diverse genetic pool (from Pulicat and Muttukadu in Tamil Nadu and Kumarakam in Kerala) was established at its Muttukadu Field Centre from which a simple and effective facility for consistent seed production was developed. An average of 1,200 juveniles can be obtained from a pair of parent fishes. The “Matsya Keralam” Scheme has taken up a massive programme for the farming of brackishwater fishes on a large scale and owing to this, demand for the quality pearl spot fish juveniles has increased. The hatchery produced seeds of pearl spot were supplied to Women Self-Help Group fish farmers from Kerala. The Women Self-Help Group representatives from Thodiyoor, Kaikulangara, Karichira, Parinadu, Kalluvathakal, Kottiyyam, Sakthikulangara and Punalur in Kerala received the seed. The CIBA, Chennai has been approached by the Kerala Government to extend its know-how and expertise with regard to this technology for seed production and grow-out of pearl spot fish, as well as in their other programmes to promote pearl spot fish production in the state. Efforts are also being made to promote pearl spot fish culture in derelict inland saline wetlands of Karnataka.

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CMFRI achieves maiden success in the finfish breeding of pompano

The silver pompano, *Trachinotus blochii* is one of the topmost tropical finishes, mainly owing to its fast growth rate and high market demand. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute initiated the aquaculture research on pompano since 2008 and the first successful broodstock development, induced breeding and larval production is now successfully accomplished. It can be considered as a milestone towards the development of pompano aquaculture in the country.

Silver pompano is caught only sporadically in the commercial fishery and hence its natural availability in the sea is rather scarce. It is a much sought after species and hence the demand can be met only through aquaculture. The farming of pompano can be successfully carried out in ponds, tanks and floating sea cages. Since the species is able to acclimatize and grow well even at a lower salinity of about 10 ppt, it is suited for farming in the vast low saline and brackishwaters of our country besides its potential for sea cage farming.

It is evident that any aquaculture venture can be popularized only if proper technology is available and the practise is of high commercial value. In the Indian domestic market the current price of pompano is about ₹ 200/kg.

The present success in the pompano breeding is a major step in the development of seed production technology. However, standardization of commercial level seed production technology is the next urgent step. Hence investment on infrastructure for broodstock development and state-of-the-art hatchery should be given topmost priority. It is felt that pompano is a potential mariculture giant which has vast domestic and global business prospects.

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