



## NAAS Programs

### BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS

**Seaweed Farming and Utilization [Convener: Dr J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), ICAR; Co-convener; Dr A. Gopalakrishnan, Director, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi]**

The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) organized a Brainstorming Session on “Seaweed Farming and Utilization” on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022. In his opening address, Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, President emphasized the need for introduction of alternate seaweed species, especially high-yielding indigenous ones in the farming practices, and round the year round availability of quality planting material. He also stressed on the importance of novel compounds, nutraceuticals, and plant growth-promoting substances derived from seaweeds; and developing guidelines for promotion of seaweed-based biostimulants. Dr J.K. Jena introduced the topic emphasizing the need to promote an interface between research and seaweed industry; and the guidelines for introduction and evaluation of exotic aquatic plants. Pointing out the importance of seaweed farming in PMMSY, Dr J. Balaji, Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of India stressed on the need for an alternative to *Kappaphycus* species for diversification in seed weed farming. Pilot-scale seaweed farming may be initiated in coastal areas identified by ICAR-CMFRI in consultation with state administration.



Key recommendations are given below:

- Establish seaweed seedbanks and supply chains for round-the-year production and supply of quality planting material of all commercially important seaweed species. Micro-propagation for large-scale production of planting material be up-scaled and pilot-scale seaweed farming be taken up in potential areas.
- Alternative high-yielding native and exotic species of seaweed should be evaluated for farming as to reduce dependence on single species *Kappaphycus alvarezii*.
- Strain improvement of selected indigenous and commercially important seaweed species.
- Mechanism for regular purchase of surplus seaweed materials by the Government at remunerative prices.
- Introduce insurance for seaweed farming.
- Test efficacy of seaweeds as fodder supplements to reduce methane emission from livestock.
- Promote offshore farming and IMTA with native seaweed species.
- Expedite FSSAI standards for seaweed products/ recipes (including dried products) for human consumption and guidelines for imports, and evaluation of exotic seaweed species.
- Promote seaweed products in domestic and international markets.
- Develop cultural practices for at least 2-3 commercial brown seaweed species for algin.
- Regular release of seaweed annual calendar and distribution pattern of seaweeds in coastal regions, and periodic estimation of potential yield to facilitate wild collection in a sustainable manner.
- To organize “National Seaweed Day” to promote seaweed consumption.

