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CMFRI webinar lays stress on indigenous people's rights

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Kochi: The intellectual property (IP) system needs to be strengthened to fully recognize indigenous people's ownership in their traditional knowledge, said experts during a webinar organized by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). The webinar underscored the role of intellectual property on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 concerning genetic resources and their impact on developing countries.

It highlighted the risks of biopiracy, where genetic resources are exploited without consent or benefit-sharing agreements, leading to the marginalization of indigenous communities and exacerbating inequalities. Organized by the institute technology management unit of CMFRI, the webinar focussed on SDG 2 target 2.5 and the importance of retaining genetic diversity in the context of food security.

"Developing countries, rich in biodiversity and traditional knowledge, often face challenges in benefitting from their genetic resources due to asymmetrical power dynamics and inadequate legal frameworks," said Kavitha Chalakal, assistant professor at the interuniversity centre for IPR studies, Cusat.