

15 February 2025

CMFRI supports Maharashtra tribal farmers in oyster farming

Our Bureau

Kochi

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has successfully produced and transported around 1 lakh attached oyster spats, paving the way for tribal coastal communities to engage in profitable oyster farming in Maharashtra.

The initiative, in association with the Mangrove & Marine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation of Maharashtra, is aimed at empowering tribal self-help groups with high-yield, eco-friendly oyster farming, leveraging hatchery-reared seeds to boost livelihoods while conserving natural ecosystems.

Oyster farming is a significant global industry, valued at more than \$7 billion, with increasing demand in markets such as the US, Europe and Asia. Oysters are highly sought after for nutritional benefits, including proteins, essential minerals and omega-3 fatty acids.

LOW-INVESTMENT

8

M K Anil, CMFRI's Pi

Scientist and Principal investigator of the project, said, "Unlike traditional aquaculture, oyster farming is low-investment with no feeding involved and hence pollution is minimised. It is a high-return aquaculture practice that enables small-scale farmers to generate sustainable income."

With adequate support such as access to hatchery-produced seed, rural farmers can venture into profitable oyster farming, tapping into opportunities in both domestic and international markets, he added.

Anil also highlighted the potential of 'remote setting,' a cost-saving technique used in the US and Europe.