

Customized year-round seaweed stock for seaweed farmers

In view of the emerging importance of seaweed farming, seaweed stock retention attempts have been made along the Kutch coast of Gujarat State through a farmer participatory approach at two locations off Sekhadiya bundar, Mundra. Water quality parameters, accessibility and control over the farming site were considered as the preliminary criterion for site selection. *Gracilaria edulis* species airlifted from Lakshadweep through a customized stock transportation technique and *Kappaphycus alvarezii* stock available along Veraval were stocked in the wet lab for conditioning and later shifted to the selected sites. The farmers trained in seaweed handling, stocking and farm management have taken it up further with 10 rafts installed by the farmer reared during monsoon and post-monsoon season.

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