

CMFRI to partner with Kerala Govt for marine development projects

Kochi, Dec 9 (UNI) The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) is set to partner with the Kerala government to improve the state's coastal infrastructure and marine development efforts. The institute inked a pact with the Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC) under the Fisheries Department of the state government, fostering collaboration in construction and implementation of various developmental projects in the marine sector. This collaboration aims to leverage CMFRI's technical expertise to support the implementation of projects undertaken by KSCADC. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by CMFRI Director Dr Grinson George and KSCADC Managing Director P I Sheik Pareeth. According to the MoU, CMFRI will provide technical guidance and support to KSCADC in the planning, design, and execution of projects such as marine hatcheries, marine aquariums, offshore structures, marine parks, sea cages, and artificial reefs. "This partnership will enable the efficient utilisation of resources and ensure the sustainability of these projects", said CMFRI Director Dr Grinson George. The linkage seeks to enhance fisheries infrastructure, improve marine biodiversity conservation and promote preservation and restoration of marine habitats, contributing to the growth of the fisheries sector in Kerala, he said. Highlighting the importance of the partnership, he added that "CMFRI's scientific knowledge will be instrumental in conserving marine biodiversity and protecting delicate ecosystems while carrying out developmental works in the sector". Further, the collaboration also aims to create sustainable income opportunities for coastal communities in the state through improved coastal aquaculture and potential marine projects, he added.