



Paper ID 16101

Post-monsoon Lime Shell Collection As an Alternate Livelihood avenue along the Malabar Coast – A Socio-economic assessment

Asokan PK^{*1}, Vinod K², Shyam S Salim³, Kunhikoya VA², Geethu Gopinathan⁴, Athira P K⁴, Nikhiljith

M K⁴ ¹Shellfish Fisheries Division, Calicut Regional Station of ICAR-CMFRI, Calicut, India

²Marine Biodiversity & Environment Management Division, Calicut Regional Station of ICAR-CMFRI, Calicut, India

³SEETTD, ICAR-CMFRI, Ernakulam, India

⁴Marine Biodiversity And Environment Management Division, Calicut Regional Station of ICAR-CMFRI, Calicut, India

The collection of the molluscan shell for lime production is a source of income for many coastal fishers along the Malabar coast. The large quantities of dead molluscan shells which are washed to the intertidal areas during the monsoon season are collected. The shell collection is a seasonal avocation that starts from June and extends till September. The beaches of Ponnani, Elathur, Thikkodi, Kolavipalam and Azhiyur are some of the important centres where large quantities of shells are collected. The shells collected are heaped on the shore and are purchased directly by the lime industries located in the Kozhikode and Kannur districts of Kerala. These shells are transported on a weekly or fortnightly basis from different locations. There are five major collection centres for processing the shell mainly for the fertilizer, feed and lime industry. The species of the collected shells vary with location and the bulk of the shells are bivalves. One person collects approximately about 5 to 6 baskets per day and each basket of shell weighs about 25 kg. The price fixed by the agents for one basket of the shell is Rs. 75/-. The revenue obtained by one shell collector during one season is Rs. 30,000/-. The total revenue generated by the lime shell industry along the Malabar coast is estimated to be Rs.3.6 crores per year. The post-monsoon lime collection offers an alternate livelihood option, especially to women and acts as a viable economic activity supporting the fisher households and supporting women empowerment.

Keywords: Lime Shell, Alternate Livelihood, Socio-economic Evaluation