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Centre mulls new fish farming project

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Centre has proposed a new project focusing on the fishing community in the Kuttanad region.

Under the new initiative, the Union fisheries ministry will take adequate steps to implement a range of modern and traditional aquaculture practices to revive the economy based in Kuttanad. These include integrated fish farming, cage fish farming, the sustainable 'one fish one paddy' initiative and biofloc fish farming. As part of the project, fish farmers producers organizations (FFPOs) will be formed to empower local communities and streamline operations.

"Enhancing livelihood for the region's farmers is the primary goal of the initiative," fisheries minister of state George Kurian said at a consultative meeting of officials and fisheries scientists at Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi on Friday.

In the pilot phase, extensive training programmes will be conducted to equip farmers with the necessary skills in aquaculture and

Representational Image



BOOST FOR KUTTANAD

other related practices. The project will also encourage start-ups to enter the sector, focusing on essential post-harvest activities such as processing, cleaning, packing and fish trade, thereby creating new employment opportunities and adding value to the produce.

Given the diverse aquatic environments of Kuttanad, the project will be divided into separate fresh and brackish water farming practices, catering specifically to the distinct conditions of Upper and Lower Kuttanad. The expertise of premier research institutions will be explored.

The minister said that a detailed project report will be prepared immediately to ensure the swift and effective implementation of the initiative, which is expected to bring significant and sustainable economic benefits to the Kuttanad region.