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## Former WHO Chief Scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Launches Water Quality Initiatives

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, former WHO Chief Scientist, unveiled various initiatives aimed at water quality assessment of the Vembanad Lake and waterborne infectious diseases at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi. Addressing the gathering, she highlighted major challenges to human health in the wake of a series of issues including climate change and

## Inauguration of Centre of Excellence for Seaweeds



Shri George Kurian, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Seaweeds at the Mandapam RC of ICAR-CMFRI on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Recently designated by the Government of India, the CoE aims at the holistic development and promotion of seaweed culture in the country. The Minister highlighted the crucial role of ICAR-CMFRI in advancing marine fisheries as well as mariculture, stating that the new initiative will

strengthen the growth of the sector. He also inaugurated the plantlet production unit for seaweed under the CoE and visited Centre's facilities. Dr. Grinson George, Director, ICAR-CMFRI described future collaborations with the ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana, Thiruchirapalli, in seaweed tissue culture programmes. About 150 fishers attended the programme, shared their experiences in seaweed and sea cage farming, and appreciated the government initiatives ♦



antimicrobial resistance, stating that most of the emerging viral threats are zoonotic infections transmitted from animals to humans. Launches included Water Clinics, the CLEANSE and the Aquadip Apps. These initiatives were part of the research project *Rehabilitation of Vibrio infested waters of Vembanad Lake: Pollution and Solution (REVIVAL)*, a joint initiative by ICAR-CMFRI, NIO, and the Nansen Environmental Research Centre-India. ♦



## Director Speaks

Major strides of ICAR-CMFRI during January-March 2025 include the inauguration of the Centre of Excellence for Seaweeds, strengthening national efforts in seaweed research and development. Considerable progress was achieved in marine ornamental captive breeding of citron clown goby, Allen's damsel and Lemon damsel, along with successful spawning of marine ornamental gastropods. The initiation of India's first commercial trawl trial for mesopelagic resource exploration marked an important step towards the responsible utilisation of deep-sea resources. Major research strides during the period included drone-based coastal ecosystem surveys, deep-sea sediment expeditions supporting bioenergy-related research, the discovery of a new eight-gilled hagfish species, and the development of an interactive beach-litter mapping platform. Extensive outreach programmes covering mangrove planting, seaweed farming technology transfer, stakeholder consultations, MLS awareness workshops, biodiversity training and conservation initiatives further strengthened community engagement and sustainable fisheries management.

With best wishes

**Grinson George**

Director, ICAR-CMFRI



# Inauguration of Creative Design and Documentation Suite



The ICAR-CMFRI inaugurated a dedicated Creative Design and Documentation Suite (CDDS) on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to strengthen its outreach and communication capabilities. This specialized facility, integrated with the Institute's Library and Documentation

Centre, will function as the central hub for the design of ICAR-CMFRI publications and print materials. The inauguration was led by Dr. Grinson George, Director, ICAR-CMFRI, with Padma Shri Dr. S. Ayyappan, former Director General of ICAR, officially unveiling the suite.

## Fish Walk



The public outreach programme "Fish Walk" was continued with an engaging and informative visit to

Puthenthodu Beach and Chellanam Fisheries Harbour on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Miriam Paul Sreeram and Fish Walk team ♦

## Eight-gilled Hagfish described from Indian waters



A new hagfish, with the common name Gopal's hagfish (*Eptatretus gopali*), *F. Myxinidae*, has been described from the continental slope off Kollam, Kerala, India, by researchers of ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi. The species is named in honour of

Dr. A.Gopalakrishnan, eminent marine fish geneticist, fisheries management expert and former Director, ICAR-CMFRI, for his immense contribution towards marine fisheries and biodiversity conservation in India.

Current species status: Junior subjective synonym of *Eptatretus sunilii* sp. nov. Further research will determine the cryptic features of hagfish community.

Treasa Augustina, Sandhya Sukumaran, Miriam Paul Sreeram and Akhilesh KV ♦

## FV Silver Pompano of ICAR-CMFRI embarks on Deep-sea Sediment Survey for Bioethanol research

A dedicated deep-sea sediment survey was undertaken by ICAR-CMFRI aboard the research vessel FV Silver Pompano under the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) project *Deep-Sea Metagenomics for Enhanced Next-Generation Bioethanol Production*, funded by the MoES. The survey covered the sedimentary environments along a bathymetric transect from the continental shelf to

the upper slope of the Lakshadweep region, spanning depths of 50-1000 m. The multidisciplinary survey, conducted from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025, carried out vertical profiling of the water column, benthic sediment sampling and surface plankton collection to explore microbial resources with biomass-degrading potential, an essential step in the bioethanol production pipeline. The

survey also contributes to a broader scientific understanding of deep-sea ecosystems within the Indian EEZ

T.G. Sumithra, R. Ratheesh Kumar, S.R. Krupesha Sharma, S.M. Vijayakumar and V. Durga ♦





## Drone-based coastal survey initiated

A new initiative has been launched to apply drone-based technology for monitoring coastal and marine ecosystems, focusing on fish aggregations, marine mammal sightings, beach litter, mangrove surveys, and

coastal wetland mapping. This high-resolution aerial data collection, was piloted in the Lakshadweep Islands for wetland mapping in Minicoy Island, while beach litter surveys were carried out at Cheriyam, an uninhabited island.

Drone-assisted marine mammal surveys were conducted near five islands (Andrott, Kalpeni, Minicoy, Suheili, and Agatti). With encouraging results, the initiative will now be integrated into a broader coastal monitoring programme.

R. Ratheesh Kumar ♦



## ICAR-CMFRI distributes mangrove saplings to students

ICAR-CMFRI distributed mangrove saplings to selected students of St. Sebastian School, Bolgatty to instil the importance of marine biodiversity

conservation among the younger generation

Rekha J. Nair ♦



## Record-size Great Barracudas Landed at Gulf of Mannar Coast

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, two unusually large great barracudas (*Sphyraena barracuda*), measuring 167 cm and 189 cm in length and weighing 27 kg and 25 kg, respectively, were landed at the Pamban Therkuvadi Landing Centre. These impressive specimens were caught during single-day trawl operations, further highlighting a rare and noteworthy occurrence within the Gulf of Mannar.

R. Rajkumar, M. Rajkumar, M. Mithun, K. Shanmuganathan, M. Afrin Rani and K. Vinod ♦



## Broodstock development and successful spawning of the Allen's Damsel

Broodstock development and spawning of Allen's Damsel (*Pomacentrus alleni*), an iridescent, neon blue-colored damsel fish native to the Eastern Indian Ocean, was achieved at Vizhinjam RC of ICAR-CMFRI. Nine adult specimens collected from the



Kanyakumari Coast were quarantined and reared in a Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS). Potential pairs were separated and maintained in similar dedicated RAS tanks with optimal water quality to minimise aggression. Commercial pellet feed



(500–800µm) were fed ad libitum along with a specially prepared broodstock feed, once daily and maintained under a natural photoperiod (12d:12l). After five months, the males formed pairs and displayed neon blue coloration along the lateral sides of the body, a yellow anal fin colour, and a broad black stripe along the lower part of the caudal fin. In contrast, the female exhibited an off-white anal fin and had comparatively less vibrant body coloration. The first spawning was observed in one of the broodstock tanks on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024, with the egg clutch consisting of approximately 500–600 eggs (930–970µm). The male measured 5.75 cm in length and weighed 5.3 g, while the female measured 5.5 cm and weighed 5.7 g. The male guarded and aerated the eggs. Larval rearing is in progress.

Ambarish P. Gop, B. Santhosh, P. Anju Lekshmi, A. S. Gautam, F. Muhammed Anzeer, K.S. Aneesh, Y. Dispin Das, A. Anuraj, Krishna Sukumaran, Rathu Bhuvaneswari, G., Madhu, K. Rema Madhu and V.V. R. Suresh ◆

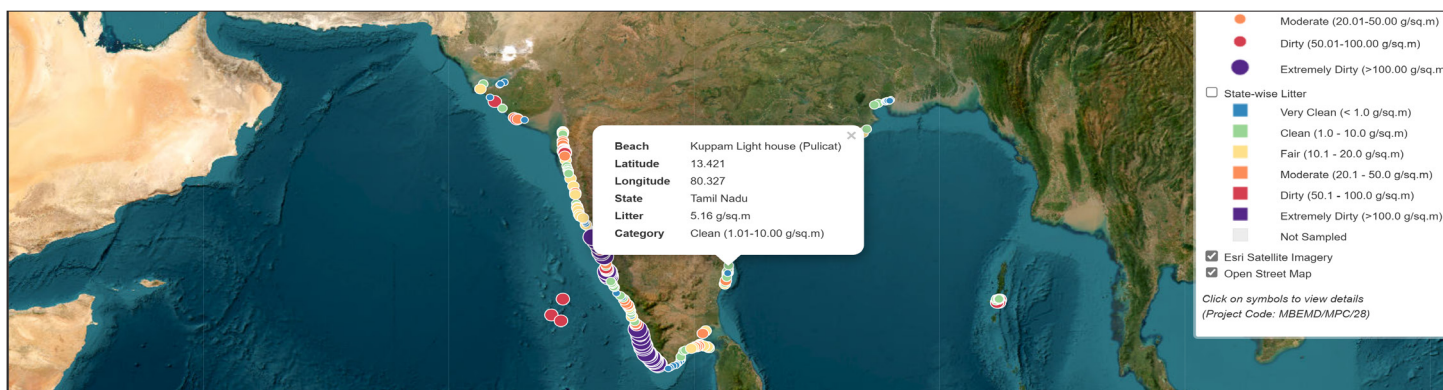
## Interactive web map of the beach litter status

The interactive web map depicting the status of beach litter along the Indian coast, originally prepared in 2014, was comprehensively updated based on a one-time nationwide survey conducted in 2023. The revised platform is designed to be interactive and user-friendly, integrating both individual beach-wise litter assessments and

consolidated state-wise mean beach litter status to provide a clear spatial overview. A total of 246 beaches were systematically surveyed under this initiative, covering all coastal States and Union Territories, including the island regions of Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The web map enables users to visualize litter patterns across regions

with ease. On clicking each mapped symbol, a pop-up window displays detailed information including the beach name, geographic coordinates, State, quantity of litter assessed, and the corresponding beach litter category, supporting informed management.

Shelton Padua ◆



Screenshot of the web map of the location-wise beach litter map of the Indian Coast



## Captive spawning of marine ornamental gastropods

Six ornamental gastropods, *Turbinella pyrum*, *Volegalea cochlidium*, *Cypraea tigris*, *Chicoreus virgineus*, *Chicoreus ramosus*, and *Lambis lambis* were collected from the coastal waters of Tuticorin (diving, gillnets, and trawl) and transported to the molluscan hatchery in aerated seawater containers. The gastropods were reared in broodstock

tanks (750 L), layered with 20 cm of sand, at a stocking density of 10 individuals per ton under optimal water quality conditions. The herbivorous species (*C. tigris* and *L. lambis*) were provided with algal-encrusted stones, while the carnivorous species were fed live clams. Captive spawning of these gastropods was recorded between December 2024

and March 2025. The egg cases were incubated, and the hatched larvae were subsequently reared under controlled conditions.

M. Kavitha, D. Linga Prabu, L. Loveson Edward, L. Ranjith and S. Willington ♦



*Chicoreus ramosus*



*Chicoreus virgineus*



*Turbinella pyrum*



*Lambis lambis*



*Cypraea tigris*



*Volegalea cochlidium*

## Initiation of first commercial trawl trial for mesopelagic resource exploration



Harvested mesopelagic resources

A participatory trial to assess the viability of harvesting mesopelagic species and to understand the operational requirements for deep-sea fishing was undertaken by the Mangalore RC of ICAR-CMFRI in collaboration with boat owners, fishers, and the fish meal industry. The trial, conducted using trawl at depths of 600-1,000 m, yielded about one tonne of mesopelagic resources. Despite certain technical challenges, the results were promising. This first attempt provided valuable insights into the untapped potential of mesopelagic fisheries and highlighted areas for further refinement in harvesting techniques

Mangalore RC of ICAR-CMFRI ♦



## Captive seed production of citron clown goby

The citron clown goby *Gobiodon citrinus* (Ruppell, 1838) also known as the Lemon coral goby is an important marine ornamental fish popular for its vibrant yellow colour and peaceful nature. The citron goby is distributed in the Indo-West Pacific region. This is the first report of captive seed production of *G. citrinus* from India. Six broodfish were collected from the coastal waters of Tamil Nadu and transported to the hatchery in oxygen-

packed polyethylene bags. After 20 days of quarantine, the fish were transferred to 250 L rectangular FRP tanks. The broodstock size ranged from 30-55 mm. The well-aerated tanks were provided with a biofilter and broodstock shelter (mud pot). Feeding was carried out to satiation twice daily with formulated broodstock feeds. After three months, the pair was separated into a 250 l tank. Spawning was observed during early

morning, with eggs laid in a single layer on the substrate. The female was observed swimming around the periphery of the substrate, while the male guarded the eggs from a short distance. The number of eggs per spawning ranged between 400-600. Hatching was observed after 100-110 h. Larvae were reared initially on copepod nauplii, followed by *Artemia* nauplii and finally weaned to inert larval feed (300-400 µm). Larval settlement was completed by 60 dph.

Krishna Sukumaran, Ambarish P. Gop, A. Anuraj, Rathi Bhuvaneswari, Archana Satheesh, S. Nisha, B. Santhosh, K. Madhu, Rema Madhu and V. V. R. Suresh ♦



Broodstock of citron goby *Gobiodon citrinus*



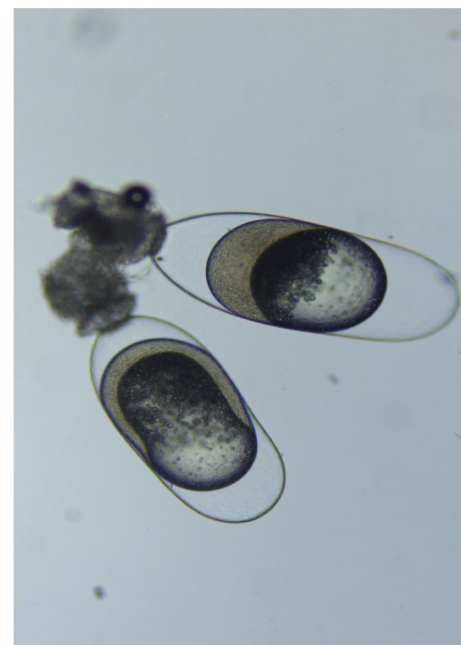
Forty-day old fry



Four month old fry



1 dph larvae



Fertilised eggs

## Webinar on Taxonomy of Marine Catfish

A one day Webinar on 'Taxonomy of Marine Catfish' was organised by Mandapam RC for the FRAEED field staff of Mandapam, Tuticorin and Chennai centre on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 ♦

## Olive Ridley hatchlings released at Azhithala Beach: ICAR-CMFRI joins conservation effort

Dr. Divya Viswambharan actively participated in the ceremonial release of 40 Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings at Azhithala Beach, Nileschwaram. The event was conducted as part of the 'Kadalazham' Marine Biodiversity Workshop held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The workshop was jointly organized by Kannur University and the Kerala State Biodiversity Board, with the aim of promoting awareness, conservation efforts, and community engagement in protecting coastal and marine ecosystems ♦



## Marine Mammal Survey in the Lakshadweep Archipelago: Insights from the MMSAI Initiative

As part of the ongoing efforts under the Marine Mammal Stock Assessment in India (MMSAI) project, dedicated island-based cetacean surveys and transect sampling were conducted in the Lakshadweep Islands between 11<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The team consisted of five MMSAI project scholars and a technical officer, MBEM Division. Surveys across five islands (Andrott, Kalpeni, Minicoy, Suheli, and Agatti), covering 12 transects, recorded approximately 588 individuals comprising Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), spinner dolphin

(*Stenella longirostris*), striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*), beaked whale (Family Ziphiidae), short-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) and pygmy killer whale (*Feresa attenuata*). These observations added distribution records of deep-diving and pelagic cetaceans in Indian waters. To complement the visual surveys, environmental sampling was conducted in both nearshore and offshore waters.

Ratheesh Kumar ♦



Spinner dolphin



Short finned pilot whale



Pygmy killer whale



Striped dolphin

## Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting organized



The RAC meeting of the Institute was organized at Mandapam RC during 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Dilip Kumar, Former VC and Director, ICAR-CIFE. The members included Dr. S.K. Chakraborty, Former Head, ICAR-CIFE and Dr. H. Shivanand Murty, Former Dean, College of Fisheries, Mangalore, Karnataka. The Director, ICAR-CMFRI along with the Heads of Divisions, Heads of Regional Centres and Heads of Regional Stations participated in the meeting ♦

## Captive breeding and seed production of Lemon damsel

The Lemon damsel *Pomacentrus moluccensis* also known as the Molucca damsel or Molucca demoiselle has great potential for the marine aquarium trade owing to its vibrant lemon yellow body coloration. A previous report on breeding of this species is from Andaman and the present work represent the first report of successful seed production. Sub-adults were collected from the coastal waters of Cape Comorin, quarantined for 10

days and raised in FRP tanks provided with biofilter and hideouts (PVC pipes). The broodstock were fed twice daily with pellet feed and once daily with a special broodstock diet. Spawning commenced after Three months in captivity. Each spawning event yielded around 600-1,200 capsule shaped eggs (1,026-1,097  $\mu\text{m}$ ), which adhered to the substrate and hatched after 84 h incubation. Newly hatched larvae, (2.78  $\pm$  0.42 mm total length) lacked eye

pigmentation. Feeding commenced after 23-25 h, and yolk absorption was completed by the third day post-hatch. Larval were reared on a combination of phytoplankton and zooplankton. Larval metamorphosis was completed within 35-40 days. The spawning interval varied between 3-7 days.

Rathi Bhuvaneswari G., Ambarish P. Gop, A. Anuraj, Krishna Sukumaran, F. Muhammed Anzeer, K. Aneesh, B. Santhosh, K. Madhu and V.V.R. Suresh ♦



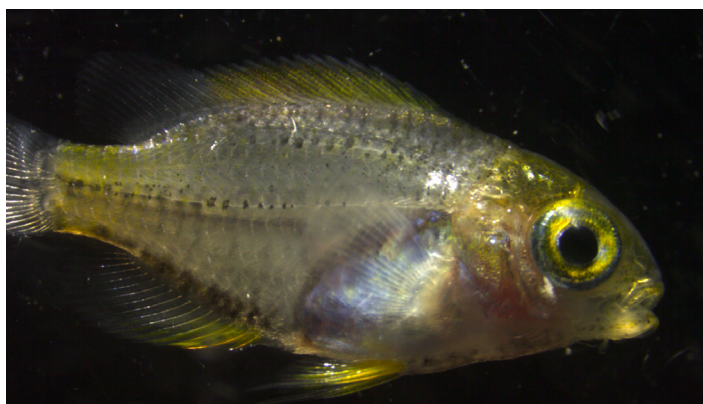
Broodstock of *Pomacentrus moluccensis*



Fertilized eggs



Newly hatched larvae



27 Dph



Juveniles

## Boost to Indian Pompano Hatchery Ventures

The Visakhapatnam RC of ICAR-CMFRI signed MOUs with Vybhav Hatcheries, Kakinada, for technology transfer on Indian pompano larval rearing and broodstock and seed production, generating an institutional revenue of ₹1.5 lakh ♦



## Mangrove plantation drive conducted under the Plant4Mother campaign

As part of the third phase of the Plant4Mother campaign, initiated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the ICAR-CMFRI conducted a mangrove planting programme at Manjanakkadu in the Njarakkal Village Panchayat on 25<sup>th</sup>



March 2025, demonstrating community commitment to coastal restoration. A total of 300 saplings of *Rhizophora mucronata* were planted during the programme. Padma Shri Dr. S. Ayyappan, Former Secretary, DARE and Director General,

ICAR, inaugurated the event by planting the first mangrove sapling at the site, followed by Dr. Grinson George, Director, ICAR-CMFRI.

## Workshop on Minimum Legal Size

The Mumbai RS of ICAR-CMFRI, jointly with the State Fisheries Department, organized an awareness workshop on the Minimum Legal Size (MLS) for marine fishes on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The workshop aimed to educate local fishermen and stakeholders from Thane and Palghar districts about the importance of MLS regulations in ensuring sustainable fishing practices and the conservation of marine resources.

## Fish Seed supply

The Vizhinjam RC of the ICAR-CMFRI supplied giant trevally juveniles to FFPO, Chirayinkeezhu, under the NFDB project, and damselfish seeds to Smart Marine Pvt. Ltd. under the BIRAC project. Supply was formally flagged off by the Director, ICAR-CMFRI, on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Ambarish P. Gop, B. Santhosh, A. Anuraj, F. Muhammed Anzeer, K.S. Aneesh, Y. Dispin Das, P. Anju Lekshmi, A.S. Gautam, S. Surya, Krishna Sukumaran, Rathi Bhuvaneswari, Bobby Ignatius and V.V. R. Suresh ♦



## Seaweed farming technology transfer in Kutch

Custom-designed HDPE seaweed raft deployments were successfully implemented across six key sites along the Kutch coast, incorporating 1200 numbers of monoline and net-tubes at demarcated locations in Kori and Padala marine creeks, Jakhau, Salaya (Mandvi), Tragadi (Modhwa), Jarapara and Kathada from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 through a farmer-participatory approach. Additionally, MoUs were signed with seven fisher groups to facilitate technology transfer under the Farmers' Participatory Research Programme

D. Divu, Suresh Kumar Mojjada, P. S. Swathi Lekshmi, P. Abdul Azeer, Jayesh Devaliya, Sagar Jadav, T. S. Ramshad, B. Prachi, Mayur S. Tade and S. Aarsha ♦

## Stakeholder meeting

Stakeholder consultation meetings were organized by ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi and its Regional Centres and Research Stations during 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at various locations across the country. The meeting brought together key stakeholders from the mechanised, motorised, and non-motorised sectors of marine fisheries, including representatives of traditional fishermen, trawl boat associations, various fishermen groups, fish farmers, traders, and officials from the State Departments of Fisheries. Salient research findings were presented by the scientists, and key points were discussed on issues related to ETP species, light fishing, ring seine operations, oil sardine growth, fishing capacity, enforcement,

capacity building for deep-sea fishing, inter-state fishing conflicts during the seasonal fishing ban period, sand mining, artificial reefs, mangroves, fish passes in dams, pollution and fish kills, insurance schemes to farmers from climate-induced losses, and alternative livelihoods during fishing bans. The discussions underscored the Institute's commitment to addressing sectoral issues through need-based research and reinforced positive engagement with the fishing community and allied stakeholders. Representatives of fishers and farmers voiced their concerns on different issues and sought action plans to be included in future research programmes.



## Awareness/Training Programme

### Calicut

A six-day training programme on paper and cloth bag making and designing was organized at the Calicut RS for 70 fisherwomen in different batches. The initiative aimed to raise awareness against plastic use.

Ramya Abhijith ♦

A training and awareness programme on freshwater ornamental fish culture was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Thamarassery Panchayat Hall, Calicut, jointly organized by ICAR-CMFRI, the Fisheries Department, and KVK Peruvannamuzhi highlighting ornamental fish culture as a sustainable livelihood option for tribal communities.

One-day awareness cum training programme, *Safe Seas: Awareness cum Training Programme on Jellyfish Bloom and Sting Management* with Jellysafe Kit Distribution, was organised for 45 small-scale fishermen from the Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala by ICAR-CMFRI, RS Calicut, with demonstrations and distribution of "Jellysafe Kit".



### Vizhinjam

The Vizhinjam RC of ICAR-CMFRI conducted a three-day training on Marine Ornamental Fish Seed Production from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 under the BIRAC-funded project. Twenty participants from Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh attended.

Ambarish P. Gop, B. Santhosh, P. Anju Lekshmi and A. S. Gautam ♦



### Karwar

Karwar RS conducted a 7-day hands-on training on breeding, seed production and farming of maze rabbitfish, *Siganus vermiculatus* under AINP on Mariculture from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 for 15 participants, including academicians, hatchery technicians, farmers and students.



An Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) awareness programme was held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Honnavar, Karnataka, for coastal cage farmers under the Network Project on AMR, to educate participants about the risks of antibiotic misuse and the resulting development and spread of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

### Kochi



ICAR-CMFRI organized a training programme on "Integrated Taxonomic Techniques for Marine Biodiversity Conservation" from 18<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Fifteen participants attended the course, gaining hands-on experience in taxonomic methods.

Rekha J. Nair ♦

### Mandapam

As a part of the activities of the Centre of Excellence (CoE), the Mandapam RC of ICAR-CMFRI organized two simultaneous events - training on seaweed farming to two scientists from M/s. Sowbhagya Biotech (P) Limited, Hyderabad and awareness-cum-seaweed culture exposure visit to 33 fisherwomen/fisheries officials from Karaikal district during 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2025.

B. Johnson, R. Bavithra and K. Vinod ♦



The Mandapam RC organized IMTA training (19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025) sponsored by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation under their project "Blue Carbon Solutions through IMTA" for 25 participants.

B. Johnson, G. Tamilmani and K. Vinod ♦

An awareness programme on marine mammal stranding was organized for fisherfolk at Nambuthalai village, Tamil Nadu on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025, in association with the Wildlife Division of Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, to create awareness on identification, stranding response, rehabilitation and disposal of carcass of marine mammals.

P. Rameshkumar and Mr. S. Thirumalaiselvan ♦

### Thengaipattinam



An awareness meeting on the Conservation and Management of Elasmobranch Resources was organized by ICAR-CMFRI at Thengaipattinam, Tamil Nadu, on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025, to raise informed discussion and collective responsibility for the sustainable management of elasmobranchs. Over 70 participants, including scientists, state fisheries officials, NGO's and local stakeholders attended the program.

S. Surya, Shoba Joe Kizhakudan, L. Remya, H. Jose Kingsly, N.V. Dipti and B. Santhosh. ♦

## Winter School organised

The Winter School on *Genetic and genomic tools for sustainable aquaculture and fisheries management* was organised at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, from 15<sup>th</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025. It was inaugurated by Padma awardee Dr. Sosamma Iype. Twenty-three participants were trained in advanced genetic and genomic techniques for marine resource conservation.

## Kochi

ICAR-CMFRI organised a one-day training programme on “Cage, Pen, Ornamental fish, Biofloc, Mussel and Oyster culture” under TSP for Scheduled Tribe promoters and ST Farmers on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The programme was inaugurated by the Tribal extension officer of Ernakulam District, Smt. Joby Thomas and was attended by 35, ST promoters and 15 farmers.

Rema Madhu, K. Madhu and R. Vidya ♦



During ICAR-CMFRI foundation day celebration (3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025), HDPE cage nets and accessories were distributed to 12 SC and 5 ST farmers from Kerala. In addition, to support SC fisherman, who lost the fishing vessel in the rough sea, ICAR-CMFRI provided a 38-ft fibre canoe and fishing gear worth ₹4,09,500/- to Mr. Karthikeyan K.V. of Chettuva, Thrissur, under the SCSP/TSP scheme.

K. Madhu ♦

A climate change awareness programme was conducted by ICAR-CMFRI at Chellanam, Ernakulam on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 under NICRA-SCSP for local fishers, including women on climate-resilient fishing. Ice boxes, fishing gear and pots were also distributed.

R. Ratheesh Kumar ♦

## Tuticorin



Under the SCSP scheme of the Tuticorin RS of ICAR-CMFRI, the Alangar group at Mottaigopuram, Thoothukudi, harvested 26.5 kg of XL and XXL-sized *Scylla serrata* from open-sea cages in 30 days, earning gross income of ₹53,795 and net income of ₹30,600.

L. Loveson Edward, D. Linga Prabu, R. Veera Venthana, L. Ranjith and M. Kavitha. ♦

## Karwar

Karwar RS of ICAR-CMFRI, conducted a seven-day training (31<sup>st</sup> January–6<sup>th</sup> February 2025) for 15, SC fishers at Manki Village under SCSP. The programme, was inaugurated by Smt. Sumati Bhat. This training provided field-based learning on cage fabrication, feeding, and fish health.

C. Kalidas and G.B. Purushottama ♦

## Puri

The Puri FC of ICAR-CMFRI organized a series of three-day hands-on training programmes under the TSP and SCSP at Odisha on “Alternative Livelihood Options through Sustainable Coastal Mariculture Practices” during 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025. A training on “Mud Crab Rearing as a Source of Additional Income” was organized during 30<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Rajesh Kumar Pradhan, Gyanaranjan Dash, Swatipriyanka Sen, Madhumita Das, Biswajit Dash and Joe K. Kizhakudan ♦

## Mangalore

Under SCSP, two cages, Silver pompano seed, nets, floats, ropes and sinkers were distributed to eight families of SC beneficiaries from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. Under the SCSP programme of NICRA Project, ice boxes, weighing balances, trays, baskets and tarpaulin sheets were distributed to 40 SC beneficiaries from Dakshina Kannada District. A dinghy was also distributed to the SC beneficiary from Thallur, Udupi District.



## Chennai

The Madras RS of ICAR-CMFRI organized four batches of training programmes on sea cage farming under the SCSP and TSP (February-March 2025). The SC and ST beneficiaries were provided with a training manual prepared in local vernacular language, Tamil.

## Visakhapatnam

Hands-on training on Indian pompano farming in open sea cages, coastal cages, coastal ponds and Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) was organized under SC-SP at the Visakhapatnam RC of ICAR-CMFRI, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 for 25 participants, including aqua farmers, research scholars, and small-scale entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Caste community in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. A bilingual (English and Telugu) training manual was released and distributed to the trainees.



## Lakshadweep

ICAR-CMFRI, under the TSP programme, facilitated seaweed farming at Kadmat Island by installing 27 rafts seeded with 25 kg of *Gracilaria edulis* sourced from the Marhaba SHG, Chetlat. This is the first large-scale initiative promoting local seed banks and self-reliant farming in Lakshadweep.

P. Abdul Azeez, Sagar Vitthal Shinde, M. P. Sameer and P. Natarajan Ananth ◆

Under the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)-sanctioned project for the establishment of a marine ornamental fish hatchery at Kavaratti, ICAR-CMFRI organized a three-day training from 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to build capacity and promote alternative livelihoods for island communities under PMMSY.



## Vizhinjam

ICAR-CMFRI continued its efforts to boost mariculture in Maharashtra by supplying 2.60 lakh green mussel seeds, 5,000 attached edible oyster spat (from one million larvae) and 64,000 cultch-less oyster spat, under PMMSY (Jan–Mar 2025) in collaboration with the Mangrove Cell

M.K. Anil, P. Gomathi, P. M. Krishna Priya and O. Shalini ◆

## Calicut

A training and awareness program on ornamental fish culture was held by ICAR-CMFRI, along with the State Fisheries Department on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Thamarassery to highlight sustainable livelihood option for ST beneficiaries. To support improved fishing access and sustainable livelihood, five FRP coracles were distributed to the Karappuzha SC/ST Reservoir Fisheries SHG, Wayanad by Dr. Grinson George, Director, ICAR-CMFRI on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025. An awareness programme under TSP was conducted at Thamarassery on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025, in association with the District Tribal Development Department, benefitting about 100 participants through sessions on fisheries-based livelihoods, welfare schemes, banking facilities and anti-narcotic awareness. Under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP), ICAR-CMFRI, Calicut RS, in collaboration with the SC Development Department, organized an awareness

programme on “Opportunities for Improving and Sustaining Coastal Livelihoods” at Purathur Grama Panchayat on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025, focusing on livelihood enhancement for coastal SC communities. A hands-on training on Crab Culture to familiarise participants with site selection, feeding, water quality, and economic aspects of sustainable aquaculture was organized under SCSP. A training program was organized on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Perambra Block Panchayat Hall, promoting beekeeping and income generation, especially among tribal women. Training and awareness programmes on Apiculture were held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Chittari GWLP School for tribal communities. Hon'ble MLA Sri K. Vijayan inaugurated the event. On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025, 15 homestead poultry cage units (each with 20 birds) were distributed to tribal families at Vattachira, Thusharagiri, in an event inaugurated by the Kodencherry Panchayat President, benefiting over 55 ST participants.



Distribution of coracle by Dr. Grinson George, Director, ICAR-CMFRI



## Rajbhasha Inspection

The Rajbhasha Officials of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi conducted an inspection of the Official Language Implementation activities of Madras RS on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The Scientist-in-Charge welcomed the committee members and gave a brief introduction about the OLIC committee members of the station. The committee headed by Shri. Ram Dayal Sharma, Joint Director, Rajbhasha, ICAR, New Delhi held a detailed discussion with the Official Language Implementation Committee of the Madras RS.



## Internship programme for PGDT & MA Hindi students



An internship programme was organized for six students pursuing the Post Graduate Diploma in Translation, Journalism & Computing and MA Hindi at Cochin University of Science & Technology, South Kalamassery from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI,

Kochi. The internship programme was conducted at the Official Language Section of ICAR-CMFRI. The programme concluded on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Dr. Grinson George, Director, ICAR-CMFRI presented certificates to the students.

## TOLIC Award



The Mangalore RC of ICAR-CMFRI won the 'Rajbhasha Shield and Certificate' (second position) under the Central Govt. Offices with less than 50 employees category, for excellent implementation of Official Language for 2023-24 by TOLIC, Mangaluru



# ICAR-CMFRI celebrates 78<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day

The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, celebrated its 78<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day with great enthusiasm across its Headquarters, Regional Centres, and Research Stations. The celebrations featured a vibrant Fish Fest, showcasing a seafood festival, technology exhibition, buyer-seller meet, workshops, training sessions, felicitations, and publication releases. A large number of students and visitors thronged the venues, exploring the wonders of marine life and gaining insights into sustainable fisheries and conservation practices. The event served as a dynamic platform to promote public awareness and highlight CMFRI's continued contributions to marine research and coastal livelihood development.





# International Women's Day

The International Women's Day 2025 was celebrated at ICAR-CMFRI and its centres under the theme "Accelerate Action", highlighting gender equality and women's empowerment. Events held at Kochi, Visakhapatnam, and Chennai honoured women entrepreneurs, retiring staff, and inspiring leaders who shared their success stories and emphasized collective action for women's leadership and social advancement.



## Awards & Recognitions

### 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (AFAF), New Delhi, February 12-15, 2025

<b>Best Oral Presentation</b> (Resource Assessment and Management for Sustainable Fisheries)	Dr. Ratheesh Kumar
<b>Best Oral Presentation</b> (Sustainable Aquaculture Intensification and Diversification)	Dr. Ritesh Ranjan
<b>Best Oral Presentation</b> (Aquatic Biodiversity, Environment and Ecosystem Services)	Dr. Joe K. Kizhakudan
<b>Best Oral Presentation</b> (Socio-Economic Dynamics & Extension in Fisheries and Aquaculture)	Dr. Johnson B.
<b>Best Oral Presentation</b> (Fish Marketing, Value Chains and Trade)	Dr. S.S. Raju and Team
<b>Best Poster Presentation</b> (Socio-Economic Dynamics & Extension in Fisheries and Aquaculture)	Dr. Vinod K.
<b>Best Poster Presentation</b> (Resource Assessment and Management for Sustainable Fisheries)	Dr. J. Jayasankar
<b>Best Poster Presentation</b> (Sustainable Aquaculture Intensification and Diversification)	Dr. Biji Xavier
<b>Best Poster Presentation</b> (Sustainable Aquaculture Intensification and Diversification)	Dr. Tanveer Hussain
<b>Best Poster Presentation</b> (Aquatic Animal Nutrition, Feed Technology and Alternate Feed Resources)	Dr. Chandrasekar Selvam



## ICAR-CMFRI receives Kshetriya Rajbhasha Award instituted by Dept. of Official Language



ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has received the Kshetriya Rajbhasha Award for the year 2023-24, instituted by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, for the best implementation of the

Official Language Hindi. Dr. Grinson George, Director, ICAR-CMFRI and Shri Hareesh Nair, Chief Administrative Officer (S.G.) and Official Language-in-Charge received the award and certificate from Shri. Arif Mohammed Khan, Hon'ble Governor of Bihar and Shri

Nityanand Rai, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, during the Joint Regional Official Language Conference for the South and Southwest regions held at Karnataka State Open University, Convocation Bhavan, Mysuru, Karnataka on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

## ICAR-CMFRI participates in the 12<sup>th</sup> ISE-SO

Dr. Geetha Sasikumar, Principal Scientist, and Dr. K.K. Sajikumar, Technical Officer, participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Indian Scientific Expedition to the Southern Ocean (ISE-SO), organised by the NCPOR, MoES, which commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025, onboard the chartered ice-class research vessel SA Agulhas. During the expedition, the team carried out extensive studies on cephalopod biodiversity up to 67°S and

documented a wide range of marine fauna, including several species of whales, seabirds, fish, penguins, and seals, thereby contributing valuable insights into the region's rich and dynamic ecosystem.



Dr. Ratheesh Kumar, Senior Scientist, MBEMD, was certified as a DGCA approved remote/drone pilot.





## Exhibitions Organised

Date	Event	Organised by
9-10 January 2025	Albertian Educational Expo	St. Albert's College, Ernakulam
16-18 January 2025	International workshop on Aquaculture Medicine & Aquatic Animal Health management in Asia-Pacific-Status, constraints and way forward (AQUAMAP-2025)	National centre for Aquatic Animal Health, CUSAT
1-3 February 2025	Matsya Mela - 78 <sup>th</sup> CMFRI foundation day	CMFRI
4-5 February 2025	100 years of Excellence	St. Teresas College, Ernakulam
12-14 February 2025	14AFAF, New Delhi	AFS, ICAR. Dept. of Fisheries & AFSIB



## Personnel

## Retirements on Superannuation



**Shri S. Yuvarajan**  
Assistant  
31.01.2025



**Smt. Binny Cherian**  
Assistant  
31.01.2025



**Shri Jayadev S. Hotagi**  
Technical Officer  
31.01.2025



**Smt. Anjali Devi**  
Upper Division Clerk  
31.01.2025



**Shri M. Saravankumar**  
Multi-Tasking Staff  
31.01.2025



**Shri O.C. Venkateswarulu**  
Technician  
28.02.2025



**Smt. Pramila Harish Borkar**  
Technician  
31.03.2025

## Appointment

Name	Post	Place of Duty	Date of Joining
Shri Tarun Dabas	Technician	Goa Field Centre	29.01.2025 (F N)
Shri Sarvottam Kumar	Assistant	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	10.02.2025 (F N)
Shri Madina Vamsi	Technician	Srikakulam Field Centre	07.03.2025
Shri Deepak Rathi	Technician	Goa Field Centre	



## Personnel

### Posting

Name & Designation	Posted As	w.e.f
Shri P. Muraleedharan Administrative Officer ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru	Senior Administrative Officer ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	01.01.2025 (F N)

### Probation Cleared

Designation	Names	Date of Initial Appointment	Date of Clearance of Probation
Personal Assistant	Smt. Zulekha	24.12.2021	24.12.2023
	Smt. M.B. Dhanya	27.12.2021	27.12.2023
Lower Division Clerk	Shri V. Greever Yoyak	17.06.2021 (A N)	18.06.2023
	Shri Eldhose Benny	17.06.2021	17.06.2023
	Smt. Emy K. Baby		
	Smt. K. Madhavi		
	Shri Seban John		
	Shri T. Vineeth Shri T. Jothi Manikandan		

### Promotions

Name and Present Designation	Date of effect
<b>Assistant Chief Technical Officer to Chief Technical Officer</b>	
Shri P.S. Anilkumar	01.01.2022
Dr. Suresh Kumar Mojjada	14.07.2022
Dr. Phalguni Patnaik	31.07.2022
Dr. Biswajith Dash	25.05.2022
Dr. Madhumita Das	25.05.2022
Shri Shoji Joy Edison (SMS-Horticulture)	21.01.2022
Shri F. Pushparaj Anjelo (SMS-Agri. Extension)	21.01.2022
Dr. Karikkathil Smita Sivadasan (SMS-Animal Husbandry)	03.02.2022
Smt. K. Ramani (Retd.)	12.10.2019
<b>Technical Officer to Senior Technical Officer</b>	
Shri A. Padmanabha (Electrical)	20.04.2021
Shri G.D Nataraja	05.07.2022
<b>One advance increment</b>	
Shri N. Viswanathan-Chief Technical Officer (Civil)	13.02.2023

## Inter – Institutional Transfer

Name & Designation	From	To	w.e.f
Shri Premjith Antony Technician	ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod	ICAR - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi	06.01.2025 (F N)

### Assessment promotion of technical staff

Name	Date of effect of merit promotion
<b>Technician to Senior Technician</b>	
Shri Digamber Suresh Kumbhar	11.01.2024
Shri P.G. Vishnu	14.01.2024
Smt. M.B. Sini	14.01.2024
Shri Mahendra Pandit Sonawane	17.01.2024
Shri Prakash Chandra Das	21.01.2024
Shri Sonara Yogesh Zinabhai	21.01.2024
Smt. N.S. Sruthi	23.01.2024
Smt. K. Renuka	22.01.2024
Shri Sineesh Ambhi	01.02.2024
Shri C.S. Binoop	01.02.2024
Smt. Menaka Das	20.03.2024
<b>Senior Technician to Technical Assistant</b>	
Shri Bhangare Sunil Ramachandra	13.03.2024
Shri M.A. Jishnudev	19.05.2024
<b>Technical Assistant to Senior Technical Assistant</b>	
Smt. Reena V. Joseph	22.06.2023
Smt. I. Santhosi	25.08.2024
<b>Senior Technical Assistant to Technical Officer</b>	
Shri M.N. Sathyan	01.09.2023
Shri C.V. Jayakumar	01.04.2024
Dr. K.K. Sajikumar	15.04.2024
Shri Ravi Kumar Avadhanula	25.04.2024
Shri Umesh Hari Rane	22.07.2024

### Relieving

Name	Designation	From	To	Date of relieving
Shri Prashant Kumar	Comptroller	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	ICAR-IARI, Jharkhand	28.01.2025



## ICAR-CMFRI

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute is a premier research institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and focusses on research and training in marine fisheries and mariculture.

Cadalmin is the quarterly newsletter of ICAR-CMFRI. This publication gives an insight into the major events of the institute, besides highlighting the salient research findings for the benefit of various stakeholders in the marine fisheries sector.

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