

Marine experts demand traceability in fishmeal sector

Our Bureau

Kochi

Amid rising demand for fishmeal and fish oil, marine experts have called for mandatory traceability to curb Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, stressing the need for sector-wide transparency.

The call came at a stakeholder consultation convened by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), attended by scientists, industry and policy-makers. Participants underscored that end-to-end traceability is critical for sustainability, regulatory compliance and market credibility.

Flagging concerns over unregulated sourcing, they said stronger documentation and monitoring systems are essential to improve accountability and check unsustainable practices. The meeting also highlighted the need to diversify

raw material sources to ease pressure on conventional fish stocks.

CMFRI Director Grinson George said efforts are underway to upgrade the fishing fleet for deep-sea operations, enabling traditional fishers to tap offshore resources and improve livelihoods.

ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology Director George Ninan said sustainable practices are essential for conserving resources and securing better prices in domestic and export markets. Sanjay Pandey, Deputy Commissioner of Fisheries, urged adoption of the National Traceability Framework, calling for coordinated action across research and industry.

“The industry must adopt transparent practices, and stronger industry-research linkages are vital for developing reliable systems and technologies,” said Shubdeep Ghosh, Assistant Director, ICAR.