

On World Ocean Day, Kerala proposes research network for sustainable fisheries



KOCHI: (Jun 8) Kerala will explore the possibility of forming a knowledge cluster bringing together research institutions and other agencies to share expertise, research outputs and technological innovations in the fisheries sector, Minister V E Abdul Gafoor said on Monday.

Addressing a World Ocean Day function at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) here, the minister said the planned cluster would help institutions work together to address emerging challenges in the sector. At a time when fisheries are confronting multiple issues, including the impact of climate change, collaborative research and coordinated action are essential for developing effective solutions and ensuring sustainable fisheries management, he said.

The Fisheries Department will take the lead in coordinating efforts among research bodies and other stakeholders to strengthen scientific support, policy interventions and sustainable fisheries management, he added. CMFRI Director Dr Grinson George presided over the World Ocean Day programme.

Earlier, the Minister reviewed the preliminary project proposal for the development of Munambam Fisheries Harbour at a stakeholder consultation. The proposed ₹200-crore project aims to equip the harbour with world-class infrastructure and facilities to ensure fishery products meet international export standards.

The meeting decided to prepare a layout modelled on Kochi Harbour, featuring 12-metre-wide roads and multi-level parking facilities for heavy vehicles. It also decided to incorporate features of a Green Smart Harbour, including environmentally sustainable infrastructure, modern waste management systems and energy-efficient facilities, besides a signal station to enhance navigational safety and harbour operations. A decision was taken to develop a 3D project model within a month to facilitate funding under central schemes, including PMMSY and Sagarmala.