

CMFRI backwater cruise takes participants through Vembanad's mangroves, Pokkali fields



Kochi: A backwater cruise organised by ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) took participants through 15 islands in the Vembanad estuary, focusing on mangroves, Pokkali cultivation, aquatic biodiversity and challenges facing the wetland ecosystem. The cruise, organised as part of CMFRI's Fish Walk initiative in connection with Swachhata Hi Seva and World

Tourism Day, covered the route from Marine Drive to Kadamakkudy. Participants visited the mangrove habitats of Korungotta and the Pokkali fields at Pizhala.

CMFRI scientists explained the ecological role of mangroves, including their contribution to coastal protection, carbon sequestration and aquatic habitats. Participants also learnt about the traditional integration of salt-tolerant Pokkali rice cultivation with seasonal fish and prawn farming. A clean-up drive was conducted during the cruise, while discussions focused on plastic pollution, wetland conservation, aquatic life, cage fish farming and sustainable use of natural resources.