

40 YEARS
OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
IN
MARINE FISHERIES IN INDIA



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held at Mandapam Camp, 16 - 18 September 1987, to mark
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Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
P. B. No. 2704, E. R. G. Road, Cochin-682 031**

Fisheries College, Kerala Agricultural University

ESTABLISHMENT

Fisheries education did not receive much attention in Kerala in the past even though Kerala continued for long to be the foremost State in India in marine fish production and export. It was realised that technical manpower should form the backbone of a developing industry like Fisheries. Fisheries is a highly multidisciplinary subject and, in order to have a successful professional career in the field of fisheries, one should become familiar with a variety of subjects other than Zoology, like Aquaculture, Fishery Biology, Oceanography, Limnology, Processing Technology, Fisheries Economics, Fisheries Statistics etc. It was felt that professional degree programmes in fisheries at the University level similar to the graduate and post-graduate programmes in Agriculture, Veterinary & Animal Sciences, should be started in the fisheries sector also in order to provide the much needed technical manpower in this sector. As per the Kerala Agricultural University Act, 1972, fisheries education comes under the purview of the Kerala Agricultural University. It was against this background that the Kerala Agricultural University started a Fisheries College in October, 1979, with the approval of the ICAR and the Government of Kerala. The College first started functioning at Mannuthy, but was later shifted to its permanent campus at Panangad, Cochin, in May, 1981.

The Faculty of Fisheries consists of seven departments, the Departments of Aquaculture, Fishery Biology, Processing Technology, Fishery Hydrography, Fishing Technology, Fishery Engineering and Management Studies. The present strength of the Faculty is 63 teaching posts of which about 20 posts are yet to be filled up.

FUNCTIONS

The College is established for imparting education and practical training in the different aspects of fisheries in order to produce the much needed professional graduates and post-graduates in fisheries. Training of paratechnical staff and in-service personnel engaged in development programmes is also envisaged.

Under the Faculty it is intended to develop through research viable technologies for the commercial cultivation of fishes and shellfishes, for the mixed farming of crops, live-stock and fish and for the large-scale hatchery production of fish and prawn seed. Studies are also envisaged in the fields of Fishery Biology, Ecology, Processing, Craft and Gear technologies, Fishery Engineering and Fishery Management.

The research results of practical utility are to be transferred to the fish farmers and the fishermen through extension education.

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

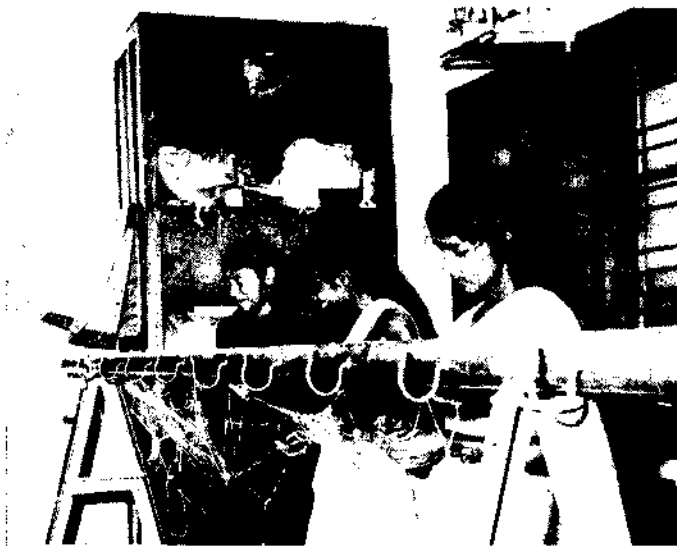
The College is situated in Panangad in a campus of 30 hectares. Much progress in the provision of infrastructural facilities could not be achieved so far mainly owing to the delay in the land acquisition. The College now functions in four semi-permanent academic block buildings having a total plinth area of 1640 sq.m. A Boy's Hostel provides accommodation for 96 students. Construction of 5 residential quarters for Associate Professors and 10 for Assistant Professors has been completed. A master plan for development of the campus has been finalised. It is proposed to construct two permanent academic blocks with about 80,000 sq. ft. area in 3 floors and the estimated amount of construction is Rs. 1 crore. The College has an Instructional Farm at Puduveypu, Cochin, extending over 101 ha with a Field Laboratory and fish ponds to conduct ex-

**The semipermanent
building housing
fisheries college
Panangad**



**Experimental
fishfarm**





Students in the
Gear Technology Lab.

of the ICAR and Government of India are admitted over and above the intake capacity.

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

Fisheries research is undertaken with more emphasis on culture fisheries. Viable technologies for the culture of fishes and prawns in brackishwater ponds, culture of freshwater fishes in homestead ponds in the coastal belt of Kerala and paddy-cum-fish culture in Punja fields of Kuttanad and Pokkali fields have already been formulated based on a series of experiments conducted under the Faculty. Some of the technologies evolved have been tried in farmers' fields as well. Training programmes have been organised for the officers of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Kerala and Peeling shed workers.

periments. The Faculty is having research and extension units at Vyttila, Kumarakom, Moncompu, Vellayani, Pattambi and Mannuthy. The College owns and runs a 43½ ft. fishing vessel, Matsya-I, for training and research purposes.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The College offers at present the Bachelor of Fishery Science (B.F.Sc.) programme and Master of Fishery Science (M.F.Sc.) programme in the disciplines of Aquaculture and Fishery Extension. The trimester/semester systems of teaching with complete internal evaluation is followed. Admission strength is 20 seats for the B.F.Sc. programme and 4 seats each for the M.F.Sc. programmes. Admission to the graduate programme is made on the basis of the rank secured in the Common Entrance Examination for admission to the various professional courses like Medicine, Agriculture etc. conducted by the Commissioner for Entrance Examinations, Government of Kerala. 30% of the seats are reserved for fishermen students, i.e. the children of fishermen whose main source of income is from fishing and whose income is not more than Rs. 10,000/- per annum, about 37% reserved for SC/ST and backward communities, and 33% for selection purely on the basis of merit. Nominees

PROGRAMMES FOR SEVENTH PLAN

Processing plant complex, a fish-cum-prawn hatchery, playgrounds for students, an ichthyology museum, fish farms, residential quarters and a library building are expected to be taken up during the VII Plan. It is also proposed to start during the Plan M.F.Sc. degree programmes in Fish Processing and Fishery Management and Ph.D. programme in Aquaculture.

Research on Reservoir Fisheries Management will be started. Paddy-cum-fish culture practices will be extended to kole lands. A freshwater fish farm is being developed in the Vellayani kayal area.

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