



Seeding the Poles

Five hundred teak poles of about 8 metres length and 50 to 60 cm girth at the bottom were purchased from the forest department of Kerala and transported to the site at Kovalam. These logs started arriving from the middle of June and by August first week, all the poles had reached the spot. Pile driving work, in a selected area in the depth range of 4 to 6 metres in the Kovalam bay, north of the village and just outside the present fishing area was started in July and about 150 piles were in position by the middle of September.

The participating fishermen of the project accompanied the staff to Cuddalore, Ennore and Coovum area to collect enthusiastically mussel seed and breeder stock. This work started late in August and continued during the first week of September. The collected seed were cleaned, bagged and wound round the poles. By the middle of September 1978, the seeds were found attached uniformly on the poles. Natural seed settlement on some poles was also noticed by the end of August. In a short period of 2½ months the mussels have grown to good size from 11 mm seed mussel to 45 mm and are expected to establish themselves well in the farm area. Another batch of 350 poles will be fixed after the monsoon is over.

#### Training in other aspects of mariculture

The training of young fishermen of Kovalam in pole culture of mussels is the beginning of a series of such trainings in other fields of mariculture. A batch of 10 fishermen of Kovalam and Karikkadu Kuppam were imparted



Mussels on Poles

training in the identification, collection and transport (by air and rail) of fish and prawn seeds. This sort of training will pave the way for taking up fish, prawn and molluscan seed collection and distribution as a village based industry. The fishermen are also to be trained in the cage culture of fish and lobsters. The project has made a good beginning and the support and participation of the village folk has been very impressive.

#### Lab to land

In the Golden Jubilee year of the I.C.A.R., the organisation proposes to take the technologies developed in fishery science from 'Lab-to-land'. This venture of the Institute, in addition to fulfilling the stated objectives of the project will make a significant contribution to the concept of transferring low-cost technology from 'Lab-to-land'.



OPERATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT  
 BLENDING SEA FARMING  
 WITH  
 TRADITIONAL  
 CAPTURE FISHERIES

CONCEPT OF

# LAB TO LAND



CENTRAL MARINE-FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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# CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## Operational Research Project

### AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO BLEND SEAFARMING WITH TRADITIONAL CAPTURE FISHERIES

Marine fisheries development in the country has been impressive during the past 3 decades. But the benefit accrued have not helped the poor fishermen engaged in small-scale indigenous fisheries whose per capita income has hardly improved. In order to benefit the fishermen and their family members whose labour potential has not been fully utilised it was felt that blending of culture fisheries with normal capture fisheries would greatly help to enhance the production and the earning capacity of the rural community.

An Operational Research Project on 'Blending sea-farming with traditional capture fisheries' was started in April, 1978 at Kovalam, a fishing village, 35 km south of Madras. This fishing village has 175 families comprising of a total of 975 fishermen. The per capita income is Rs. 369 per annum. The project will train fishermen in the methods of mariculture of fishes, prawns and molluscs so that these could be undertaken along with capture fisheries. This would also create a sense



*Project Meeting*



*Driving the Poles for Mussel Culture*

of involvement and participation in the sea-farming techniques evolved by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and demonstrate the scope for overall improvement of socio-economic conditions of the area. The integrated approach to blending culture fisheries with capture fisheries for rural development is a new concept in marine fisheries sector in this country.

#### Objectives

1. To establish the possibilities of supplementing traditional fishing with sea-farming (mariculture) in



*Cleaning Seed Mussel*

order to increase production and improve the socio-economic conditions of the fisherfolk.

2. To demonstrate the feasibility of the culture of mussels and other cultivable organisms such as prawns, fishes, seaweeds etc. on a large scale and their economic viability and transferring the technology available with CMFRI to the masses.

3. To create a sense of involvement and participation among local fishermen in this project by associating them from the initial demonstration stages itself, so that this venture becomes self-generating, equipping them to take to sea-farming along with their traditional fishing.

4. To demonstrate the scope for overall improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the rural area where this project becomes operative through development of infrastructure for processing, marketing and better methods of utilization.

5. To assess the direct impact of this project in the area where it is operative in comparison to the socio-economic conditions of the project area prior to the introduction of the project.

#### Progress achieved

The first phase of the project commenced in April 1978 with introduction of mussel culture. For this purpose, 100 young fishermen in the age group of 15-25 were enrolled. They were grouped in batches of 10 with an elected leader for each group.



*Bagging the Seed Mussel*