The ICAR completed 50 years of useful service to the nation in 1979 and as a major programme of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations decided to organise an Experimental Transfer of Technology Programme-the LAB-TO-LAND.

The notable feature of this programme is the direct participation of the scientists at the ICAR research institutes and agricultural universities in the transfer of new and improved technologies aimed at increased production. The beneficiaries have rightly been identified as the small and marginal farmers and landless labourers, with special attention to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

The CMFRI is one of the first institutes under the fold of ICAR which decided to launch the programme in all seriousness and made an early start right from January, 1979.
Dear Colleague,

The publication of the CMFRI Newsletter which was a regular feature was unduly delayed in the recent past. I am glad to inform you that we are reviving the Newsletter to keep our staff fully posted about the ongoing activities of the Institute, projected programmes and staff news.

Since there has been a time lag in the issue of this Number, highlights of activities for the intervening period have been updated in this issue.

For the successful running of the Newsletter it will be very necessary that our staff working at Headquarters and subordinate establishments of the Institute take an active interest in keeping the Headquarters informed about local activities which will not only cover research highlights, but include items such as activities of the recreation club, participation in sports and games, distinctions to children of staff members, participation in extension programmes and so on. The Officers-in-Charge will also keep the Headquarters informed about matters which should find a place in the CMFRI Newsletter.

From its inception up to the last number, Shri K.N. Krishna Kartha has been responsible for bringing out the Newsletter. We appreciate his efforts in making the CMFRI Newsletter an attractive publication of quality. Smt. Krishna Srinath who has joined the Institute at Headquarters as Extension Officer is now entrusted with the responsibility of compiling and editing the Newsletter from this issue onwards. All materials for publication in the Newsletter may be sent to her by name.

The all round cooperation from our staff is needed to successfully run the Newsletter and may I look forward to have your help and support.

E. G. SILAS
Director

Technology Package

The main theme of the Institute's programme is coastal aquaculture in which the Institute has made very significant advances during the last eight years. The technologies recommended to the fishermen and fish farmers, including agricultural farmers who came forward to take up aquaculture, were intensive culture of marine prawns, polyculture of fishes and prawns mussel farming edible oyster culture and seaweed culture. In this Programme due attention was given to develop crop - livestock - fish integrated farming practices suitable for different locations.

The Institute has selected a total number of 312 families which include 122 Harijans at Valappu forming a Welfare Society, 30 fishermen at Elathur, 15 agricultural farmers and wage earners at Thekkumbhagom in Quilon District, 15 fishermen at Tuticorin, 20 fishermen at Mandapam, 50 fishermen at Karikattukuppam, 50 Harijans at Muttukadu near Madras and 10 fishermen at Karwar. Thus a cross section of economically backward segment of the society was adopted for providing the benefits of technology under the Lab-to-Land programme.

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Inaugurates

The Lab-to-Land Programme on prawn culture at Valappu near Cochin was inaugurated by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan FRS, Director-General of ICAR on 13 March, 1979. The programme of polyculture at Thekkumbhagom village near Quilon was launched by Shri Baby John, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Government of Kerala on 12 April, 1979. Shri G. R. Edmund, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Fisheries of Government of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the mussel culture programme at Karikattukuppam near Madras on 7 April, 1979. The Oyster culture programme at Tuticorin was inaugurated by Shri R. Shanmugham, District Collector Tirunelveli on 10 May, 1979 and the one on seaweed culture at Mandapam Camp was launched by Shri S. Subramaniam, District Collector, Ramanathapuram. The mussel farming programme at Calicut was inaugurated by Shri. K. M. Balakrishnan, District Collector, Calicut. The most recent one
taken up was mussel culture at Karwar started in November 1980.

Steady Progress

All the programmes made steady progress during the years 1979 and 1980. Several harvests of prawns and fishes were taken at Valappu and the farmers were extremely satisfied with the results. They decided to convert all the available common marshy fallow land into productive prawn culture ponds. The prawn culture technology was quite new to the farmers in Quilon district. Harvests of other products were taken by the farmers at various centres. The programme during the two years has made a good area impact in the regions of operation.

The scientists engaged in the Lab-to-Land programme met the farmers and district authorities involved with the operation of schemes like IRDP, SFDA, DPAP, etc. at a workshop held at Cochin and Mandapam Camp during July, 1979 and made an interim assessment of the progress and constraints of the whole programme, based on which action plans for future have been developed.

At Karwar

Karwar, along the Uthara Kannada coast of Karnataka is one of the important centres for the production of green mussel, Perna viridis. Under the Lab-to-Land programme a project on mussel culture was initiated in November 1980 at Karwar. The fishermen at the village Binage were interested in carrying out mussel farming as an additional voca-

Bumper catch of anchovies at Mangalore

A record catch of 4186 tonnes of anchovies was landed in a short span of about a fortnight during October-November, 1980 from the purse-seines operated from different centres along the South Canara coast. Of these, the bulk of 3087 tonnes was landed at Mangalore and 657 tonnes at Malpe. This heavy landings of anchovies have been beneficial to the purse-seine fishermen, especially at a time when they were not getting enough mackerel for their effort.

Among the anchovies landed about 80% was contributed by Stolephorus devisi and the rest composed of S. batavensis, S. buccaneeri and S. macroops.

The anchovies fetched a price ranging Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,500 per tonne in fresh condition. They are usually sun-dried and marketed at different places such as Trivandrum.

The number of purse-seines operated at Mangalore is about 50.

Anchovies catch - from landing centre to the market.