

## **CIFT becomes national reference lab for fish**

**Kochi:** The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology(CIFT) has been notified as a national reference laboratory for fish and fish products by the national food safety regulator, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

CIFT is the only research institute under fisheries wing of Indian Council of Agricultural Research to be given such a high profile recognition.

With the status of a reference laboratory, the CIFT can create a laboratory system network at par with global food testing laboratories. It can also function as a resource centre for provision of information on certified reference materials, developing standards for routine testing procedures and reliable testing methods. It can provide technical support in the area of competence, evaluate the performance of other notified laboratories and to collaborate with other food laboratories for data generation and collate the data related to their specific domain.

"CIFT is now collaborating with FSSAI for risk assessment of emerging chemical and microbial contaminants in fish for developing regulatory frame work," said Dr. C N Ravishankar, director, CIFT. Earlier, the Union government had notified the institute as a national referral laboratory through a notification issued in January 2017.

