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Agriculture status for fisheries sector sought

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PRESIDENT of Seafood Exporters Association of India V Padmanabhan said that usage of antibiotics or unscientific/unhealthy practices in fisheries sector is one of the major concerns, which needs to be addressed on priority. According to him, SEAI, MPE-DA and a few other departments are coming up with various campaigns to inform about the challenges in the sector. He was speaking during a seminar on "AP FishTech 2018 - Opportunities and Challenges in Indian Fisheries and Aqua Culture: AP Perspective" here on Friday.

Padmanabhan at the seminar said that Andhra Pradesh had been a leading exporter of shrimp to the US and European Union. He urged agriculture status to fisheries sector to bring down the cost of produc-

tion. He also added that traceability of antibiotic rejections is a challenging issue that needs to be addressed on priority or else exports worth ₹40,000 crore would be drastically affected. He said that the stakeholders in the fisheries sector need to be educated for sustainable growth.

Director of ICAR-CIFT, Kochi, C Ravi Shankar stressed that ICAR research institutes such as CIFT, CMFRI, CIFA, CIBA and CIFRI had been contributing to the development of fisheries sector. The director of ICAR Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-

CIFA), Bhubaneswar, emphasised the prudent use of water in crop production. He stressed that innovation should not compromise sustainability.

Joint Director of Fisheries department, Andhra Pradesh, Sankara Rao said that AP contributes almost 20 per cent of Indian fish production.



AP contributes almost 20 per cent of Indian fish production and has a gross value of about ₹40,000 cr

Sankara Rao,
JD of Fisheries dept