

CIFT to make chitosan and chitin from silkworm pupae

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) has entered into a partnership with Ecogenie Biotech to develop innovative, sustainable solutions for the production of chitin and chitosan from silkworm pupae.

ENTERS TIE-UP WITH ECOGENIE BIOTECH

The partnership marks a significant milestone in the pursuit of eco-friendly and sustainable biotechnological processes. Chitin and chitosan, naturally occurring biopolymers, are derived from crustacean waste and are widely used in various industries, including agriculture, healthcare and food processing.

The innovative approach of utilizing silkworm

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pupae as a raw material presents a new frontier in sustainable production. India is one of the major producers of silk. In the process, it also generates a huge quantity of silkworm pupae as waste, which is not properly and effectively utilized currently. The present collaboration aims to explore novel possibilities that can contribute to circular economy in the country.

Under the memorandum of agreement (MoA) signed

between CIFT and Ecogenie Biotech, CIFT will provide technical know-how for conventional chemical process of extracting chitin and chitosan. This process, traditionally used for crustacean waste, will be modified to suit silkworm pupae, ensuring that the end product meets the highest quality standards.

“This partnership is a testament to our commitment to advancing sustainable practices in agriculture. By adapting our existing technology for silkworm pupae, we are opening new avenues for eco-friendly production that aligns with global environmental goals,” said CIFT director George Ninan. The scientific team, including Elavarasan K, Jeyakumari A and C O Mohan, will lead technical consultancy for this project.