



The **ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi**, celebrated **World Fisheries Day** with great enthusiasm today by organizing a **"Students Interaction cum Brainstorming Programme"** for students from the **Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOOS)**. This initiative aimed to inspire the next generation of fisheries professionals, fostering meaningful discussions on **sustainable** fishing practices and innovative technologies in the sector.

INSPIRING THE FUTURE: GUEST OF HONOUR

The event featured **Smt. Chinnamma Joseph**, an accomplished fisherwoman and Vice President of the **Inland Fishermen Cooperative Society, Vaikom**, as the Guest of Honour. Smt. Chinnamma shared her extraordinary journey spanning **55 years** in the fishing industry, which she began at the tender age of 13.

Her stories of resilience, perseverance, and expertise captivated the audience, particularly the students, as she highlighted the critical role of women in the fishing sector. Reflecting on the challenges and opportunities in her career, she encouraged students to embrace innovation while staying committed to sustainable practices. In recognition of her invaluable contributions to the fishing community, **ICAR-CIFT honored her during the event**, applauding her dedication to the industry.

LEADERSHIP AND INSIGHTFUL SESSIONS

The programme was presided over by **Dr. M.P. Ramesan**, Head of the Fishing Technology Division at ICAR-CIFT, who emphasized the importance of preparing the younger generation to address emerging challenges in fisheries.

Technical sessions by eminent scientists provided deep insights into the future of fisheries:

- **Dr. Madhu V.R.** and **Dr. Muhammed Ashraf P.**, Principal Scientists at ICAR-CIFT, discussed **innovative fishing technologies** and **sustainable fisheries practices**, outlining solutions for reducing bycatch, conserving marine biodiversity, and enhancing productivity.
- Senior scientists **Dr. Prajith K.K.** and **Dr. Sandhya K.M.** addressed key topics in fisheries technology, empowering students with cutting-edge knowledge and tools.

SIMULTANEOUS CELEBRATIONS ACROSS INDIA

The celebration extended beyond Kochi, with parallel events held at **ICAR-CIFT's research centers in Visakhapatnam, Mumbai, and Veraval**. These programs showcased the institute's commitment to promoting sustainable fisheries and **aquaculture** nationwide. At each location, researchers, students, and industry stakeholders joined hands to reaffirm their dedication to transforming the fisheries sector through innovation and sustainability.

CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY

World Fisheries Day serves as a reminder of the critical role that fisheries play in ensuring food security, employment, and ecological balance. Through its nationwide activities, ICAR-CIFT demonstrated its commitment to empowering youth, enhancing women's participation, and addressing pressing challenges such as climate change, marine pollution, and overfishing.

The event concluded with a call for collective action, urging students and stakeholders to innovate and collaborate to achieve a sustainable and inclusive future for the fisheries sector. This celebration was a testament to ICAR-CIFT's enduring vision of transforming Indian fisheries through scientific excellence and community engagement.