

CIFT extends tech support for shrimp shell bio-refinery

Our Bureau

Kochi

To address issues connected with shrimp processing waste, the Kochi-based Central Institute of Fisheries Technology has assisted in setting up a shrimp shell bio-refinery.

The initiative, said to be the first of its kind in the country, will help realise sustainable industrial practices in the fisheries sector. Managing waste is a perennial problem faced by the shrimp processing industry for decades, and it has become an environmental liability.

Recognising the potential of shrimp shell waste as a valuable resource, ICAR-CIFT has taken the lead in developing advanced technologies to convert this byproduct into high-value products.

This achievement is significant as it contributes to a

circular economy, where waste from one process becomes raw material for another.

CIFT's shrimp shell bio-refinery technology reduces environmental impact and produces valuable products, such as chitin, chitosan and shrimp protein hydrolysate. These are in high demand across industries, including agriculture, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

With an annual capacity of 400 tonnes of shrimp waste, the facility generates employment for seven individuals and achieves a projected turnover of ₹25 lakh.

George Ninan, CIFT Director, said that by bridging the gap between scientific research and industrial application, the institute continues to lead the way in demonstrating how sustainable technologies can revolutionise industries, foster entrepreneurship and create employment opportunities.