

### EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION VISITS ICAR-CIFT TO BOOST RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TIES



The ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT) hosted a high-level delegation from the European Union (EU) as part of the EU Research & Innovation Counsellor's regional visit to Kerala from December 2-5, 2024. The delegation aimed to enhance research and innovation collaboration between the EU, its Member States, and leading Indian institutions.

Led by **Mr. Pierrick Fillion-Ashida**, First Counsellor and Head of Research & Innovation, EU Delegation to India, and **Dr. Vivek Dham**, Advisor for Research & Innovation, the team was warmly received by **Dr. George Ninan**, Director of ICAR-CIFT. Senior officials and divisional heads of the institute joined the discussions.

The visit showcased ICAR-CIFT's groundbreaking work in **Marine Fisheries and Litter Management**, **Blue Economy initiatives**, **One Health and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**, **Sustainable Fisheries Management**, and **Ocean Governance Standards and Policy Support**. Delegates explored collaborative opportunities under **Horizon Europe**, the EU's flagship research and innovation funding program, highlighting its potential to bolster Indian research initiatives.

**Dr. George Ninan** emphasized ICAR-CIFT's dedication to sustainable fisheries and the global blue economy, expressing optimism about the mutual benefits of strengthening ties with the EU's R&I ecosystem. He highlighted the institute's role in tackling global challenges such as marine litter and sustainable fisheries.

**Mr. Fillion-Ashida** lauded ICAR-CIFT's technological innovations and contributions, stating that partnerships like these are critical to addressing global challenges and advancing sustainable development goals.

The visit included a tour of ICAR-CIFT's advanced laboratories and facilities, providing the EU delegation with insights into ongoing projects and cutting-edge research. Representatives from **WAH (Netherlands)**, **DAAD (Germany)**, and **EU Horizon** expressed interest in future collaborations, particularly in postgraduate research and education programs.

The visit underscored the potential for impactful partnerships between ICAR-CIFT and the European Union, paving the way for advancements in fisheries technology and sustainable development initiatives.