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European Delegation visits ICAR-CIFT to Boost Research and Innovation Partnerships

2nd December 2024, Kochi

ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology hosted a distinguished delegation from the European Union (EU) today as part of the EU Research & Innovation Counsellor's regional visit to Kerala, scheduled from 2nd to 5th December 2024.

The delegation led by Mr Pierrick Fillion-Ashida, First Counsellor and Head, Research & Innovation at the EU Delegation to India, and Dr Vivek Dham, Advisor, Research & Innovation at the EU Delegation, along with other officials, was warmly welcomed by Dr George Ninan, Director, ICAR-CIFT, and the Heads of Divisions of the institute.

Mr Fillion-Ashida commended ICAR-CIFT for its contributions to fisheries technology and innovation, noting that such collaborations are vital for achieving goals on addressing global challenges and advancing objectives in sustainable development.

Dr George Ninan, Director, ICAR-CIFT, emphasized the institute's commitment to promote sustainable fisheries and contribute to the global blue economy. He expressed optimism about the synergies between ICAR-CIFT and the EU's R&I ecosystem, particularly in addressing global challenges like marine litter, sustainable fisheries, and ocean governance.



The primary objective of the visit was to explore the cutting-edge research and innovations being undertaken at ICAR-CIFT and to foster cooperation in research and innovation (R&I) between the EU, its Member States, and leading Indian research institutions. During their visit, the delegation expressed keen interest in ICAR-CIFT's pioneering work in Marine Fisheries and Litter Management, Blue Economy Initiatives, One Health and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Sustainable Fisheries Management, and Standards and Policy Support for Ocean Governance.

The visit also included discussions on potential avenues for collaboration under 'Horizon Europe', the EU's largest research and innovation funding program. Delegates highlighted various cooperation and funding opportunities that could benefit Indian research institutions and drive collaborative advancements in these critical areas.

The visit concluded with a guided tour of the institute's state-of-the-art laboratories and facilities, where the delegation gained first-hand insights into ICAR-CIFT's ongoing projects and technological advancements.