

## **Demonstration and Feasibility Study of Lobster Fattening in Integration with Pompano and Seaweed in the Lagoons of Lakshadweep by CMFRI**

NFDB has accorded sanction to CMFRI project titled “Demonstration and Feasibility Study of Lobster Fattening in Integration with Pompano and Seaweed in the Lagoons of Lakshadweep” at a cost of Rs.10 lakhs for a period of 1 year (2020-21) with 100% central assistance. An amount of Rs.7 lakh has been released so far.

The project involves deployment of 4 nos. of Cages in the lagoons of Agatti for culturing of Lobster in combination with compatible finfishes and in integration with the indigenous seaweed following the principal of “Integrated Multi Trophic Aquaculture” (IMTA).

The project was launched with the first stocking by Shri P. Krishnamoorthy, IAS, Adviser to the Administrator on 17th October, 2020. Training and capacity building: Local fabricators and officials of the DoF, Lakshadweep and fisheries professionals, members of the fishermen cooperative society etc were involved in the fabrication of cages, net mounting, deployment and cage maintenance, thereby building the skill of local youth on aspects of cage culture. All the cages were stocked with Lobster, Pompano, Trevally and Seaweed material.

The project location faced severe cyclone “Tauktae” problem on 14.05.2021. The cages washed ashore suffered minor damages to the structure while the culture nets and the protection nets were damaged beyond repair. In the storm surge and the net damage, the crops in all the 3 cages were lost. Hence, repairing work was done later. Maintenance works of the three out of four cages that are intact after the Tauktae cyclone were done. Culture nets are being procured for deployment of the cages after the effect of monsoon weather is reduced by the end of August, 2021. The seed collection and stocking will be done after deployment of the cages in August, 2021.

